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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19635 FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1997, 11 PAGES, 22 MOHARRAM 1418 NIS 7.00 (Eilat NIS 6.00)

## On the Labor campaign trail

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## 'Marco Polo' hits the big screen

Time Out



## Rebbetzin Leah Kook: She's got the power

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### Righteous Gentile remembered

Swiss Ambassador Thomas G. Borer talks to Ruth Roduner yesterday at a dedication ceremony for a square in Kiryat Ono named for her father Paul Gruninger, a Swiss police officer who saved more than 2,000 Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution by helping them cross the border into Switzerland.

## New device solves Shabbat electronic lock problem

By HAIM SHAPIRO

When Moshe, an Orthodox Jew, works for a major airline, he is in a deluxe hotel in Beijing, and he has to get up at 3:00 a.m. for a flight that departs at 3:30 a.m. He has to get up for 24 hours, rather than use the electronic door lock on Shabbat. But he does not have to do so any longer. It is an invention by a company in the Tefen Industrial Park. Glal-Tech specializes in developing electronic entry and security systems. It says that it has produced a Shabbat electronic lock which can be used for single rooms, a floor or an entire wing of the hotel. The lock is operated with a magnetic card, which as with the usual electronic

lock, can be programmed for each individual guest. The company has acquired both Israeli and US patents and the device also has received the approval of the Tsomet Institute in Alon Shvut, which specializes in matters of Halacha, ethics, and technology. Rabbi Yisrael Rosen, director of the Tsomet Institute, said it got involved with the problem of electronic locks because more and more hotels are using them. Although the company hinted that its invention could be adapted to enable Orthodox Jews to turn on lights or air conditioners in their homes, Rosen warned that at present it would be prohibitively costly.

## US: Netanyahu and Arafat must agree before summit

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The United States is interested in delaying the meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat until a package of agreements accepted by both sides is completed.

continue. El-Baz came to brief Netanyahu as to Arafat's answer to the proposals raised by Netanyahu and Mubarak at their summit meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh on Tuesday. Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, cabinet secretary Danny Navah and Netanyahu's advisers Dore Gold and Uzi Arad also attended the meeting.

### Arafat wants to meet Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Page 2

The US fears a meeting without such agreement will lead to an "explosion" which will blow up the entire negotiation process. This message from the US arrived last night, in the middle of the meeting between Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's envoy Osama el-Baz. Jerusalem sources said. Netanyahu and el-Baz said after their meeting that the contacts will

continue. The source said the Americans seem to feel that the Egyptians have greater clout with the Palestinians at this point, and are not objecting to the use of this avenue. They pointed out that the present contacts are not "a major mediation effort," but an attempt to get the Palestinians back to the negotiating table. According to the sources, the Egyptians' change of tone vis-a-vis the peace process derives from their concern about considerable American aid in their foreign financial aid and their desire to show that they are not an obstacle to the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

# PM: There is no final status map

By MICHAL YUDELMAN, SARAH HOING, and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denied that any of the maps published yesterday as his proposals for the final status boundaries are authentic. "What was printed does not necessarily represent my intentions," he told a group of Ethiopian immigrants who met him at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv yesterday. The group, all Likud activists, outlined their community's unique problems, but also heard a lot that did not specifically pertain to their absorption difficulties.

Netanyahu told them he had "seen in the press a number of contradictory claims and maps about my supposed plans. The fact is that I have not shown maps to anyone. I do have thoughts about the final status arrangements. This week, we began a series of consultations to draw up maps. What was published, however, is not accurate, and does not necessarily represent my intentions."

As Netanyahu spoke, a noisy Meretz demonstration against him was going on outside.

According to *Yediot Aharonot's* report on the maps, the Palestinians will get 60 percent of the West Bank, while *Ha'aretz* reported that Netanyahu's proposal allocates only some 40% of the West Bank to the Palestinians and will keep most settlements under Israeli sovereignty.

*Ha'aretz's* military commentator Ze'ev Schiff, who wrote the story, said that 40% is only Israel's opening position. He noted that Netanyahu will renounce sovereignty over settlements near Jenin, but refrains from saying so for fear of the reaction of his right-wing coalition partners.

The reported map keeps the Jordan Valley under Israeli control, with the Palestinians receiving the northwest coast of the Dead Sea. A road or corridor would connect Jericho to Ramallah. Jerusalem would be extended to Ma'aleh Adumim and

Kfar Adumim in the east, Gush Etzion in the south, and Beit El in the north.

One of the most outstanding features are the roads or corridors planned for both sides. The Palestinian roads would join Gaza and the West Bank and link Kalkilya, Tulkarm, and Jericho. Israel would have four "safe" roads, two in the northern part of the West Bank and two in the southern part, linking Israel to the Jordan Valley.

Sources close to Netanyahu said the different reports about the maps must have been put together on the basis of the strategic demands and evaluations presented by the security establishment.

They noted that the security authorities months ago presented a map which was described as giving 50% of the West Bank to the Palestinians. That too was not supposed to be the final status map, but described what Israel needs for its strategic defense.

The sources noted that political leaders have different considerations than security heads, who want optimal security and demand maximum conditions, leaving it to politicians to decide what is really necessary.

The Palestinians rejected with disgust the reports about the maps. Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security, said that "all of the West Bank and Gaza is Palestinian land occupied in 1967, and Netanyahu cannot dictate by force what he wants. He can dream, however, what he desires."

Settlement leaders were astounded by the reports. According to Yehiel Leiter, of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, "As it is now, the Palestinians have 29% of the land, so there is not much difference between that and the 40% offered, but we will never agree to such a large continuous area surrounding Jerusalem to be handed over to the Palestinians. It is not a quantitative issue but a qualitative one."

See MAP, Page 19

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Haifa	7:12 p.m.	8:23 p.m.
Beersheba	7:16 p.m.	8:14 p.m.
Eilat	7:12 p.m.	8:15 p.m.

### Israel may host major Euro soccer final in 2000

The Israel Football Association (IFA) yesterday received notification from UEFA, the governing body of European soccer, that Israel may be chosen to host the final of either the European Cup or the Cup Winners' Cup in 2000.

While the notification is still tentative, UEFA has confirmed that Israel will definitely host the European under-16 championships in that year. Should Israel host one of the two major European finals, it would be the most important international sporting event ever to be held here.

But before this could happen, the National Stadium in Ramat Gan will have to undergo a major face-lift to increase capacity from its current 45,000 seats, and also provide much improved facilities for the media.

### Former soccer star Uri Malmillian asked to form haredi team

By ORI LEWIS

The Jewish genius has come up with a solution for observant soccer fanatics - an all-observant team which will not play on Shabbat.

The idea was mooted yesterday by Jerusalem deputy mayor Harm Miller, who has charged former Betar Jerusalem soccer star Uri Malmillian with setting up and training a team which will compete in local leagues.

"There is a great deal of interest in the religious community in local soccer, but there is a barrier and the haredim are not going to either go to games or to play because most league matches take place on Shabbat," Miller said.

See SOCCER, Page 19

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מקדון האיל

# NEWS

in brief

### Palestinian who criticized PA arrested

A Palestinian who complained that his detained son was being tortured by Palestinian Authority security forces has been arrested, his family said yesterday. Shawkat Salah, 55, was first arrested Wednesday morning, two days after testifying at a news conference about the alleged abuse of his imprisoned son, who is suspected of murder. Salah was held 12 hours at the Bethlehem police station and released late Wednesday, only to be arrested again yesterday morning, his son Iman said. AP

### Ma'alot terror victims remembered

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan represented the government at yesterday's memorial marking 23 years since 22 students from the Comprehensive Religious High School in Safed were killed in a terror attack in Ma'alot. Members of the bereaved families, residents of the city, and hundreds of others participated. Itim

### 11 killed on roads this week

Eleven people were killed in traffic accidents this week, compared to 12 last week. A significant number of those killed were pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists. A total of 258 people have been killed on the roads since the beginning of the year. In an effort to crack down on traffic offenders, police pulled over 461 vehicles for safety violations this week and handed out 1,075 tickets to truck drivers. Itim

### Winning numbers and cards

Ticket number 363546 in the weekly Payis Hazak draw won the NIS 1 million prize. Ticket 617921 won a car. Tickets 267020, 481785, 214066, 759360, 637888, 876373, 712855 and 240772 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 83634, 08431, 70372, 54708, 97211, 53276, 99426, 17410, 75857, 94458, 26568, 96515, 72044, 90490, 04947, 53293, 09858, 22169 and 26198 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 014, 835, 073, and 547 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 37, 01, 18, and 70 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 95 and 50 won NIS 20, and those ending in 1 and 5 won NIS 10. The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were the seven of spades, jack of hearts, nine of diamonds, and king of clubs. The results of the second draw were the king of spades, ten of hearts, seven of diamonds and king of clubs.



Labor MK Shlomo Ben-Ami (left) meets with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Ramallah yesterday. (Gus Ra)

## Netanyahu agrees to attend HU ceremony

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and MICHAL YUDELMAN

A palpable sigh of relief could be heard from Hebrew University officials yesterday afternoon, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu changed his mind and agreed to attend the university's

# Arafat wants to meet Yosef

By MICHAL YUDELMAN, SARAH HONIG, and news agencies

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat wants to meet Shas' spiritual mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, as part of an attempt to get the peace process back on track. Arafat sent this message to Yosef via MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, a candidate for Labor's leadership, during their meeting in Ramallah yesterday. Arafat considers Shas a central and most influential component of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition. Arafat told Ben-Ami he still believes in the peace process, and has great confidence in the

Egyptian arbitration. He noted, however, that he was troubled by the vacuum the United States is creating in the region, by pulling out of the mediation efforts. Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri said yesterday that "there is nothing new in the fact that Yasser Arafat has long been trying to secure an audience with Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. He and his people have also been trying to involve Shas in the negotiations." Deri said he doesn't know if Yosef will agree to meet with Arafat. "That is his decision and, as we always do, we will abide by his decision, whatever it is." Nevertheless Deri said that "Shas has no intention of becoming a side in the negotiations and of

being used in order to pressure the elected government of Israel. Arafat must negotiate with the government and not to meddle in internal Israeli politics and try to win friends and influence people in other parties with an eye to making the prime minister's task more difficult. We will not play that game." But Netanyahu adviser David Bar-Ilan said the premier would have "no objections to Arafat seeing anybody he wishes" as long as it was clear that "negotiations have to be conducted with elected representatives of the Israeli people." A Palestinian official said Arafat would welcome Yosef's help in renewing the peace talks and that Arafat sees Shas as an important element in Israeli politics.

# Terror suspect bares 'torture' wounds to High Court

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

A suspected terrorist made his point in the High Court of Justice yesterday, when he bared his flesh to show the justices what he said were wounds inflicted by his interrogators.



Omar Ghanimat (Brian Hendler)

The bench, consisting of President Aharon Barak and Justices Eliezer Goldberg and Dorit Beinisch, later ordered the head of the Justice Department unit which investigates the police to report back within 10 days on whether Omar Ghanimat had been tortured by General Security Service interrogators. Ghanimat requested that the

freely, saying that he feared them. After the request was granted, Ghanimat climbed onto a bench and showed the justices wounds along the length of his arm. He then revealed his ankles which, he said, were swollen. According to Ghanimat, his handcuffs had been tightened so as to prevent blood from flowing through his arms and his hand was hurt when he was kicked and dragged along the floor. He said the interrogators had placed a chair on his chest and jumped on it and also prevented him from sleeping normal hours. Prosecutor Shai Nitzan said that two medical reports indicated

Ghanimat's wounds had been caused by handcuffs rubbed against the skin. There was unnecessary physical pressure being exerted on him, Nitzan said and none would be, unless the some dramatic new developments. Nitzan requested that the methods of interrogation employed by the GSS be discussed by closed doors, saying it would be harmful to future interrogations if these methods are revealed. Ghanimat is suspected of belonging to Izzadin Kassam, an armed wing of Hamas, and is brother of the Apropro cafe sui bomber.

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found need to state unequivocally express his feelings about the legal and academic elites in this country, of which he does not approve.

"One of his first initiatives without any provocation was that he said there was a need to make order in the academic world in Israel," said Lissak. "Order is a very loaded word in the history of political and academic elites. In his role as prime minister, he should not have launched such an attack, and I felt I should respond to it."

Lissak noted that Oxford University had refused to grant former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher an honorary doctorate after her election, even though she was an Oxford graduate, because of her attacks on academia.

Prof. Yaron Ezrahi, another of the signers, said that "it's unprecedented in the history of Hebrew University that the presence of a prime minister in the convocation be subject to such objection, but it is also unprecedented that an Israeli prime minister would launch such systematic attacks on the vital institutions of an enlightened democracy like public broadcasting and the free press, which he accused in a wholesale manner and in sweeping generalizations with trying to oppose the mandate he got from the public."

"This kind of incitement of the public against the press is a strategy not acceptable from democratic leaders."

"Secondly, he has failed to fulfill his role as a public trustee by consistently violating professional norms in his appointments of public servants. The university is neither an extension of the state, nor a private profit-making institution. It represents a commitment to the principles of free critical discourse, and high professional standards on which we educate our students, and we cannot remain indifferent in the fact of this unprecedented condition, where the prime minister attacks these principles."

مكتبة الاصل

# Anti-Israel incidents near Druse village cause alarm

By DAVID RUDGE

Police are investigating the discovery of the remains of a firebomb on the patrol road along the border with Syria close to Majdal Shams village.

The discovery was made by IDF troops on patrol in the area on Wednesday night. It was not clear whether it had been thrown at army vehicles in the area and missed, or had been planned there for later use. Police said tracks from the scene led towards Majdal Shams.

In a separate incident yesterday, the national flag atop the local council offices in Majdal Shams was found burned. Police are investigating.

The incidents raised concern over the possibility of another wave of nationalistic incidents by pro-Syrian elements in the Druse villages on the Golan, where unrest has been growing recently.

In January, police and the General Security Service arrested five Golan Heights Druse on suspicion of being behind a series of arson attacks last year, including two incidents in which petrol bombs were thrown at IDF patrols.

The suspects, three adults and two juveniles, all from Majdal Shams, were remanded in custody pending a trial before a military court for crimes against the State.

The arson attacks began last July when a police post in Mas'ada village was set alight. The income tax office also was damaged by fire, and there were arson attacks on property belonging to pro-Israeli Druse residents.

Since then, there have been other incidents of arson attacks on the property of pro-Israeli Druse residents. According to some reports, pro-Syrian Druse, who form the vast majority of the residents, have recently strengthened a social and religious boycott on pro-Israeli Druse, effectively ostracizing them.

Some pro-Israeli Druse are reported to be considering leaving the Golan because of the recent incidents and the social and religious discrimination against them.

## Flag-burning haredi boy released to house arrest

By ELLI WOHLGELERHTER

The haredi boy photographed burning an Israeli flag at a Lag Ba'Omer bonfire last Saturday was released to house arrest for a week by Jerusalem judge yesterday.

The 14-year-old, who was arrested after midnight Wednesday night, told police that he had burned the flag on his own, and was not provoked into it by photographers, as had been charged by members of the haredi community and by Jerusalem city councilman Haim Miller (Agudat Yisrael).

Judge Yoram Noam said the youth, who was accompanied to court by his father, must also be under adult supervision when he leaves the house - and then only to school - and must be available to police for further questioning if needed.

Miller said the youth is a member of Neturei Karta, an anti-Zionist haredi sect. "You have to remember they don't recognize the state, they don't take money from the state, they don't use any of the state's services."

"So you can't say that they're getting a budget and also burning the flag, as some reported it." Nevertheless, Miller said, "I condemn it in any event, even by

the Neturei Karta." Although the boy admitted doing it, Miller said that "he's innocent, and I continue to maintain that the whole thing was a provocation."

The charge of provocation was denied earlier in the week by one of the three photographers from Flash 90 who photographed the scene.

"It happens every year," said the photographer, who declined to give his name. "On Saturday night, they started the fire, about 100, 150 kids and teenagers, and they put some flags on it, maybe 10 to 15 flags. Then somebody came, an adult, and gave them more flags to burn."

The incident last Saturday night in the Mea She'arim neighborhood reignited anti-haredi feelings among the general public, coming two weeks after members of the community threw stones at police during the minute of silence on Remembrance Day.

Miller said earlier that he had made a deal with the police to allow the boy's teachers to punish him, although police said that no such deal had been struck.

"If the court had allowed the rabbis to deal with this, they would have done a better job, better than the courts," Miller said.

## Jay Bushinsky, new 'Post' diplomatic correspondent

By Jerusalem Post Staff

After three decades as a foreign correspondent during which he covered three of Israel's wars, one foreign conflict and a major revolution, Jay Bushinsky is coming home to *The Jerusalem Post* as its new diplomatic correspondent.

The veteran reporter and broadcaster had his first taste of newspaper journalism at the *Post* in 1960 when he worked on its copy desk as a sub-editor. He later studied at Columbia University's prestigious Graduate School of Journalism, and to make his career in all of the news media's facets - print, radio and television.

Bushinsky's major assignments as a foreign correspondent included the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur War, Cyprus War, 1974, Iranian Revolution, 1978-79, Lebanon War, and the Gulf War, in addition to developments in the political, economic and cultural domains in Israel, the Middle East and Europe.

He was born in Buffalo, NY, and graduated from Queens College and Yeshiva University's Graduate School of Education.

Among his professional awards are those of the Overseas Press Club, Chicago Newspaper Guild and Dartmouth University's Amos Tuck Award for Economic Understanding.



Jay Bushinsky (Tel-Or)



Tichon visits Mauthausen. Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and his wife Ludmilla visit the Mauthausen concentration camp yesterday, during an official trip to Austria. (Reuter)

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**NEWS**

*in brief*

**Jordanian caught smuggling weapon**

A Jordanian was caught attempting to smuggle a pistol and magazine into Israel during a routine check at the border. Police detained him for questioning and announced they would send him back to Jordan as soon as they are done. *Itim*

**Court postpones hearing on house demolition**

The Jerusalem District Court yesterday postponed a hearing on the demolition of a house in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan that was halted on Wednesday. No reason was given for the postponement. The court will hear the case Sunday afternoon. The city began tearing down the 180 sq. meter house on Tuesday morning, after having received the necessary court approval. The owner of the house then brought a temporary halt order from the court pending the further hearing. *Ellie Wohlgelehrter*

**Mordechai challenged over service discrepancy**

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was ordered yesterday by the High Court of Justice to show cause within 60 days why a reasonable quota should not be set for the number of yeshiva students receiving exemptions from military service. Justice Elisha Mazza responded to a petition from Meretz MKs Amnon Rubinstein and Haim Oron, who were joined by a group of reserve soldiers. *Batsheva Tsur*

**Teenager arrested after stepmother stabbed**

A 14-year-old from Usfiya on Mt. Carmel was arrested yesterday on suspicion of stabbing his stepmother. The woman, 39, was stabbed in the back and moderately injured on Wednesday night. Police said the teenager had confessed and that it appeared that the stabbing was a result of a family dispute. *David Rudge*

**Organ donors' families to be honored**

Certificates of appreciation will be awarded on Tuesday by President Ezer Weizman to families who donated their deceased loved ones' organs for transplant. The first-ever ceremony, to take place at Beit Hanassi, was initiated by Israel Transplant. Health Minister Yehoshua Mazza and hospital staffers will also attend. A representative of the Dabuskin family, which donated the organs of their daughter - who was killed in a road accident in Tel Aviv a few months ago - will speak on behalf of all the families. *Judy Siegel*

**Unemployed woman wins NIS 7m. Lotto prize**

A 30-year-old woman from the Tel Aviv area won the NIS 7 million top prize in this week's Lotto. The woman, who is single and unemployed, said the money would help her realize all her dreams: a wedding, a home and studies. "I have had a boyfriend for five years, and we have been putting off the wedding until we had means. Now we are heading straight to the rabbinate to register for our wedding," she said at the Mifal Hapayis office in Tel Aviv upon arriving to collect the prize. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

**Ben-Ari remand extended**

Zvi Ben-Ari, the businessman suspected as being one of the heads of the so-called Russian mafia here, was remanded for a further seven days by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday. Ben-Ari is suspected of being involved in the murder of a Russian banker, conspiracy to kill another and an \$85 million fraud of banks in Russia. Police are concerned that Ben-Ari's colleagues may try to spring him from prison and he is heavily guarded. Police also expressed concern that Ben-Ari will try to disrupt the investigation and frighten possible witnesses. Three of Ben-Ari's employees were released on bail. *Raine Marcus*

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**New proposal for conversion bill**

**MK Ravitz suggests listing religion only by initial on identity card**

By LIAT COLLINS

MKs seeking a compromise which would solve the conversion bill dilemma are considering a new idea. Under a proposal by Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism), instead of writing the word "Jewish" in the relevant clause on identity cards, the religion of the holder would be listed by just the first letter. Ravitz said this would solve the problem of asking Interior Ministry officials to record as Jewish someone who has undergone a non-Orthodox conversion. He stressed, however that his first preference is to preserve the status quo in which the Chief Rabbinate recognizes only Orthodox conversions carried out in Israel or non-Orthodox conversions performed abroad. This is also the basis of the conversion bill. His idea complements the proposal by Alex Lubotzky (Third Way) under which converts would be listed as Jewish on their identity cards and the type of conversion

they underwent - Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, or Reconstructionist - would be recorded in the Population Registry. Shas leader Aryeh Deri reportedly supports this suggestion, but National Religious Party faction chairman Hanan Porat objected to it. Porat said it would, in effect, separate state from religion. Dedi Zucker (Meretz) described Ravitz's suggestion as "incomprehensible at best and laughable at worst, and not the solution." He said it would be better to completely scrap the clause listing religion on identity cards. The Law Committee, chaired by Shaul Yahalom (NRP), is to discuss the continued passage of the conversion bill on Wednesday. Yahalom said he is open to finding a compromise, but the High Court has given the Knesset until June 30 to decide the issue of who is able to perform conversions in Israel and unless a solution can be found, or the judicial proceedings frozen, the law must be ready by then. Meanwhile, Ophir Pines (Labor) yesterday accused Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, the head of Yisrael Ba'aliya, of "making a deal" with the religious parties under which his faction would support the conversion bill in return for a plan to simplify the Orthodox conversion process here. He published details of an agreement among the Religious Affairs Ministry, Chief Rabbinate, Education Ministry, and Absorption Ministry to examine the possibility of establishing more conversion courses for new immigrants. Roman Bronfman, chairman of the Yisrael Ba'aliya Knesset faction, rejected Pines's claim, saying: "There is absolutely no linkage." He said his faction would only support the bill after all alternatives had been exhausted. Haim Shapiro adds: The government has not including local Conservative and Reform leaders in its efforts to reach such a compromise, representatives of the two movements said yesterday.

Rabbi Pinhas Spekre, director of the Masorti (Conservative) movement in Israel, said that thus far he has heard of no concrete proposal, nor has he been asked to attend any meeting. Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center, said he is unsure why Israeli politicians are talking to the American Jews, when the issue under discussion is conversion here. "Perhaps they do not want to solve the issue of conversion in Israel but merely want to solve the problem of pressure from American Jewry, or perhaps they realize that this is an issue concerning world Jewry," Regev said. Until now, Regev said, he had heard no proposal which the Orthodox establishment or Chief Rabbinate would be willing to accept. Spekre said that he is sure that within the Orthodox establishment, there are people who are very concerned about world Jewry, but that his movement is determined not to give in until a genuinely acceptable solution is found.

**Druse poet honored for furthering cultural understanding**

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

"If peace were in the hands of the poets, the Middle East would have been a very peaceful region for the past 40 years. Hebrew- and Arabic-language poets work very closely together," award-winning poet Nazia Hir said yesterday. Hir was speaking after being accorded the president's prize for Arabic literature translated into Hebrew, at a ceremony at Beit Hanassi. Hir, a resident of the Druse village of Dalat al-Carmel who served in an elite IDF unit and later graduated from Haifa University, received the award for his efforts in furthering understanding between the two cultures. He said he writes in both Arabic and Hebrew. Other prizes from the Amos Fund - which is headed by President Ezer Weizman and encourages creativity in the literary field - went posthumously to Jerusalem-born writer David Shahar who died last month, to author Amalia Kahana-Carmon for her contribution to Hebrew literature, and to Hebrew-language poet Moshe Sartal. Reuma Weizman, the president's wife, called on Education Minister Zevulun Hammer to reinstate a special reading program in the schools for underprivileged children. "We have to take care not only of the writers but of the readers," she said.



President Ezer Weizman (right) awards the President's Prize for Literature to Druse poet Nazia Hir at Beit Hanassi yesterday. (Photo Noy)

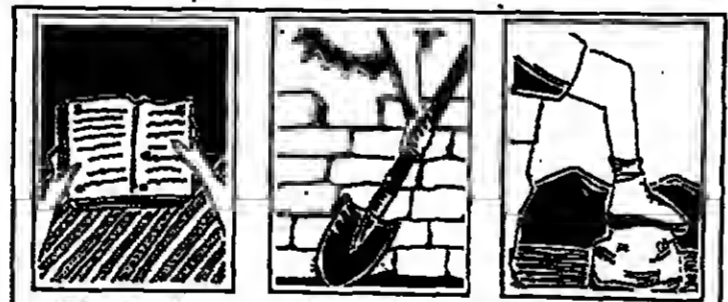
**Meridor-Likud split over abolition of TV license fee**

By DAVID HARRIS and LIAT COLLINS

Finance Minister Dan Meridor said yesterday he will oppose any attempt to abolish the television license fee. MK Benny Eloo (Molodet) has sponsored a bill, which would do so. Meridor maintains he is seeing the government line and Likud MKs backing the bill are ignoring it.

Speaking on Israel Radio, Meridor said in two attempts to legislate or create policy, the cabinet will come into conflict with "the welcome intellectual independence of MKs." The bill to abolish the fee passed its first hurdle when the Knesset Finance Committee paved the way for it to go to its first reading. The vote was strictly along party lines, with 9 of the 10 coalition representatives in favor and the 7 opposition

members voting against. Alex Lubotzky (Third Way) abstained. "There is an interest or even a value which must be kept," said Meridor. "And that is the law of freedom of the media, and particularly of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, because it has recently done a very important job in Israel's public life." Meridor is against the IBA being entirely dependent on a direct grant from government, which he claims would be the broadcasters' hands. Coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan rejected the basis for Meridor's plea not to cancel the TV license fee. "From now on, if Meridor tries to reason for any kind of cost-effective or efficiency measures [elsewhere], he will get a clear response," he said. "If he covers up for the place which wastes the most money in the economy, where hundreds of millions [of shekels] go down the drain, just because he wants to be popular in the media, he will be a media star but he won't be able to ask us for cuts elsewhere."



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**What's on at the Festival**

Jerusalem Theater  
Sherover - *An Ideal Husband*, today at 3 p.m.; tomorrow at 9 p.m.

Henry Crown - *Alte Musik*, program B at 10 a.m.; Netherlands Wind Ensemble at 4 p.m.; NWE, tomorrow at 9:30 p.m.

Rebecca Crown - *Coriolanus*, at 11 a.m.

Foyer - jazz, Flutalk, tomorrow, 11:45 p.m. Free.

Plaza - Jerusalem Saxophones, 9 p.m. Free.

Gerard Behar - Second Hand Dance, tomorrow at 9 p.m.

Targ, Ein Kerem - Anniversary program A, tomorrow at 11 a.m.

YMCA - fortepiano, Bilson/Levin B, tomorrow at 11 a.m.

St. Andrews Church - fortepiano, Bilson/Levin A, 1 p.m.

Dormition Abbey - Melanchthon choir, tomorrow at 9 p.m.

Hangaar, Talpiot - Zik, Enerzik, tomorrow at 9 p.m.

Caesarea - Kirov, Swan Lake, tomorrow at 9 p.m.

**Light art**

By HELEN KAYE

This year the Israel Electric Corporation has provided more than cables and power to the Israel Festival. It has raided the company rubbish dumps to create art.

Up on the wall of the Jerusalem theater there is a brass and aluminum chessboard with chessmen made of glass and ceramic high tension insulators. The opposite wall boasts a swell of those big orange plastic balls they thread on high-tension wires to warn low-flying aircraft. Right next to that, there are two of the biggest light bulbs you ever saw, made of lacquered plywood layers bonded together, and turned with the aid, according to the plaque, of a special lathe that is used for power station turbines.

Around the corner, half a dozen brightly painted miniature pylons get pally and, back on the

plaza, is a great old climbing frame made of old telegraph poles bolted together with iron. On it, rusty iron human cutouts, carved by company lasers, shinn up ropes.

IEC general manager Rafi Peled, a noted artist in his own right, made the designs and 50 of the employees put them together, working on their own time.

There's always an art exhibition on the plaza, and the IEC always provides the extra power the festival needs for the nightly free entertainment. Last year, after the usual Israel Festival/IEC meeting, festival management said, "Why don't you do the exhibition next year?" And Peled picked up the glove. "This is the first time that an exhibition fits this space," one approving kibitzer said at last night's opening bash on the plaza, also courtesy of the IEC. "It's fun, full of humor. Just what Jerusalem needs right now."

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## Program Highlights

**Saturday, May 31, 1997**

- 9:30 a.m. Host Faculty Symposium
- Small is Beautiful on miniaturization in technology  
With Dr. Ran Ginosar, Prof. Steve Lipson, Prof. Yael Nemirovsky, Dr. Meir Orenstein, Prof. Emil Polturak, Prof. Uri Sivan, Prof. Daniel Weibs
- Dan Carmel
- 8:45 p.m. • Technion Medal Award Ceremony and President's Reception  
Churchill Plaza

**Sunday, June 1, 1997**

- 12:00 noon Ceremony marking the establishment of the
- Phillip Frame Chair in Materials Engineering endowed by Hazel and Gerald Westbury, Louisa, Charlotte and Philippa
  - Joseph Szydlowsky Chair in Aerospace Engineering
  - Benno Gitter and Ilana Ben Ami Chair in Biotechnology
  - Mallat Family Fund
- Benjamin Auditorium, Segoe Building
- 2:00 p.m. Ceremony dedicating the
- Deborah Turken Reception and Information Center
- Coler-California Visitors Center
- 8:00 p.m. • Festive Opening and Honorary Fellows Award Ceremony  
Churchill Auditorium

**Monday, June 2, 1997**

- 11:00 a.m. Ceremony dedicating the
- Corob Family Physical Fitness Hall Extension at the Sports Center
- 12:00 noon Ceremony dedicating the
- Albert A. Kaufman Floor
- Ullmann Building, 3rd floor
- 2:00 p.m. Cornerstone laying ceremony for the
- Henry & Marilyn Taub and Family Computer Science Building
- At the site (near the S. Neaman Institute)
- 8:30 p.m. Honorary Doctorates Award Ceremony  
Churchill Auditorium

**Tuesday, June 3, 1997**

- 11:00 a.m. Ceremony dedicating the
- William and Sophia Shamban Tribology Laboratory
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
- 12:00 noon Awards Ceremony
- Muriel and David Jacknow Awards for Excellence in Teaching
  - Salomon Simon Mani Awards for Excellence in Teaching
  - Hershel Rich Innovation Prizes
  - Henry Taub Prizes for Excellence in Research
- Butler Auditorium, S. Neaman Institute
- 2:15 p.m. Ceremony dedicating the
- WD/ATS - Hannah and George Krumholz Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy Laboratory, Complex Fluids Project
  - WD/ATS Career Development Chair
- Auditorium, Faculty of Biology
- 3:00 p.m. Host Faculty Program  
Tour of Microelectronics Laboratory and Solid State Institute
- 4:30 p.m. Ceremony in recognition of the
- Hewlett Packard Gift to the Technion
- Lecture by Dr. Joel Birnbaum, Sr. VP, H.P.
- Ceremony celebrating the establishment of the
- Hewlett Packard Laboratories, Israel
- Butler Auditorium, Neaman Building
- 8:30 p.m. Students' Salute to the BOG  
Technion Pool Grounds

**Wednesday, June 4, 1997**

- 5:30 p.m. Unveiling Ceremony of the
- William Davidson School Plaque
- Cooper Building - Industrial Engineering and Management
- 6:00 p.m. Ceremony launching the
- William Davidson School
- for the management of technology-based industries  
Churchill Auditorium

## Congratulations to Award Recipients

### Harvey Prize Laureate



Prof. Roger D. Kornberg  
U.S.A.

### Honorary Doctor of Science - Doctor Scientiarum Honoris Causa



Prof. Robert S. Langer  
USA



Prof. Barry M. Trost  
USA

### Honorary Doctor - Doctor Honoris Causa



Winston S. Churchill  
UK



Dr. Lillian Chutick  
USA



Dr. George H.  
Heilmeyer  
USA



Etia Meilichson  
Israel



Dr. Felix Zandman  
USA

### Technion Medal Awards



Uzia Galil  
Israel



Samuel Neaman  
USA

### Honorary Fellows



Norman  
Belmonte  
USA



Robert  
Davidow  
USA



Charles  
Housen  
USA



Ivoncy  
Ioschpe  
Brasil



Sidney  
Konigsberg  
USA



Alexandre  
Mallat  
France



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Dov Tirosch  
Israel

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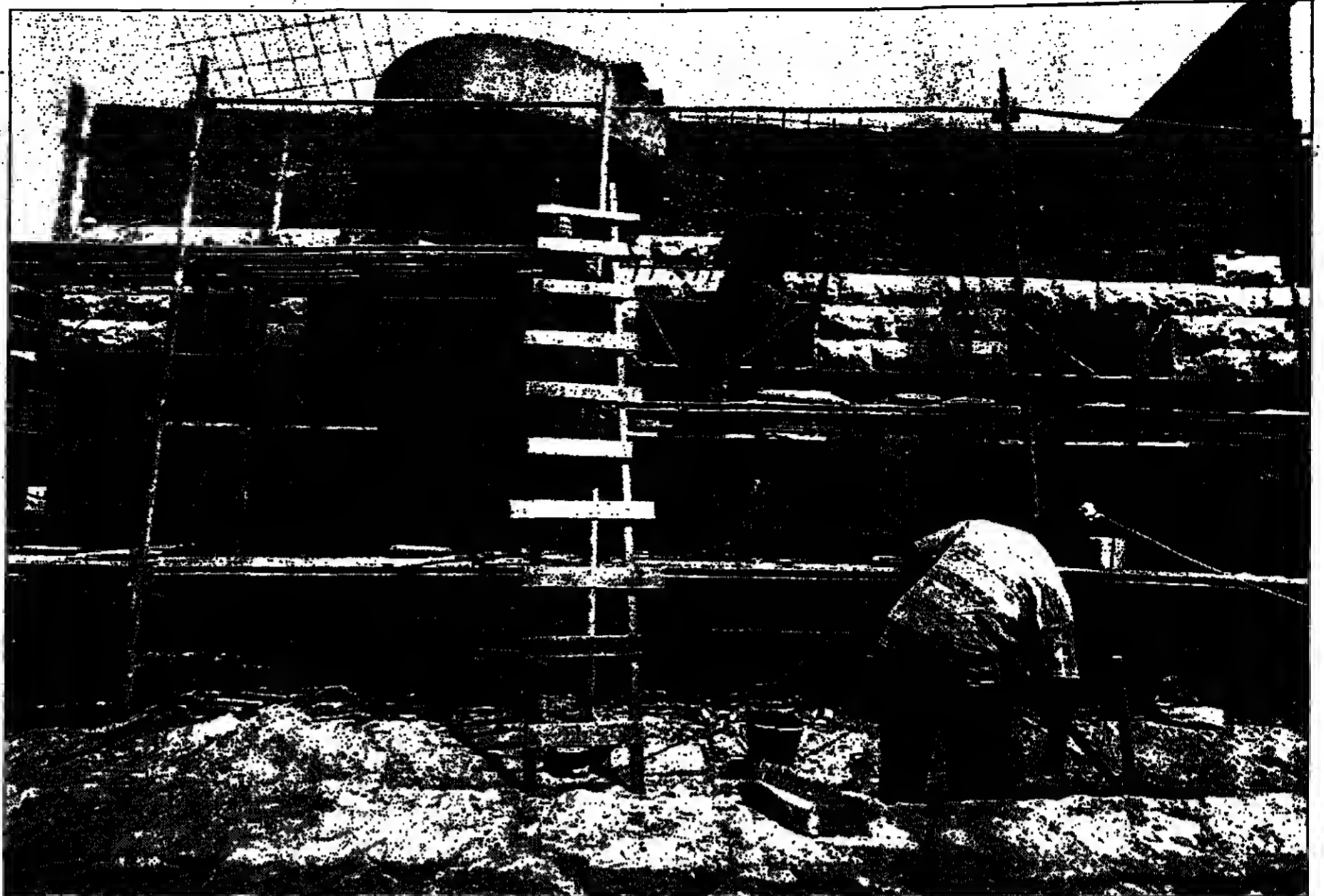






## Boom or bust? Construction in the territories

With talk of a final settlement looming, settlers are more anxious than ever to establish facts on the ground. Do houses stand empty — as the US recently charged — or is there a long waiting list to join settlements? Margot Dudkevitch reports.



Housing for young couples in Elkana: Community leaders say they are swamped with requests from people who want to live there.

(Sarit Uzily)

Recent ad campaigns promoting house sales in Judea, Samaria, Gaza and the Jordan Valley give the impression that intensive construction is taking place, but statistics show more building permits were approved under the former government than under the current one.

To its last year and a half in power, the Labor government granted 3,942 permits, while the Likud coalition has authorized only 2,200 over the past 18 months.

But Yehiel Leiter, head of the foreign desk of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza (known by the Hebrew acronym Yesha Council), says the figures are much higher under the current government. "In Kiryat Sefer alone 2,000 permits were granted, in Ma'aleh Adomim over 1,000, in Kedumim there were 200," he says.

Settlers had hoped the current government would allow more construction in the territories, he says, and many had expected a building binge.

"At the same time, it's not simple to re-direct government policy of four years. The government is not going to build any government-sponsored housing, so it's up to the private contractors," he says.

Leiter adds that the Yesha

Council's demand for more building will become more urgent once the 3,000 units released last year are sold.

"At present, the council plans to set up a special mortgage bank that will allow residents throughout the territories to apply for second and third mortgages to complete buildings. This should allow more young couples to purchase homes."

Settlements, however, are inundated with requests from families throughout the country seeking to purchase a private house with a yard. Where once ideology served as the springboard, the majority of those now applying appear more intent on attaining a higher standard of living.

Last December, the government decided to classify the settlements as national priority areas, making them once again eligible for a large basket of financial incentives. The decision not only assured settlers that they are important, but persuaded many neo-ideological Israelis that now is the time to move across the Green Line.

In many settlements, the majority of houses now being sold were initiated by the Shamir government and finished under the Rabin government. Due to the Labor government freeze, however, they are only now being put on the market.

against construction in a settlement like Tapuah, deemed politically sensitive," he says. Funds allocated to settlements under the former government, says Raz, became the settlers' responsibility, whereas the current government hands out all sorts of incentives, including a 7% tax reduction, loans to cover a majority of the mortgage, and additional sums in the form of grants.

Earlier this year, the Jordan Valley advertised under the slogan "Jordan Valley, a strip of opportunities," offering 50 houses for sale that had been built by the Housing Ministry in 1995, as well as 25 units in "build your own home" projects in eight different moshavim.

Three months after the campaign started, Community Development Coordinator Sbulamit Kaminsky says the regional council offices had received over 1,300 requests from people seeking to purchase a house on a plot of land.

Prices, says Kaminsky, range from \$50,000 for Housing Ministry units built in 1995 to \$180,000 for the build-your-own-home projects.

"We were amazed with the results," she says, adding that people applied from all over the country. Most of the candidates were professionals: teachers, salesmen, artists, dentists, lawyers and engineers. People didn't even raise political issues,

bot stressed they were fed up with city life, Kaminsky said. Meanwhile, the Samaria Regional Council is planning to sell 900 houses in settlements such as Barkan, Ginit Sbonroo and Kamei Sbonroo.

has the appearance of an open market neighborhood like Herzliya Pithul, huge villas, boasting the latest in architectural styles, are divided into different neighborhoods.

Well-maintained roads and footpaths separate them, surrounded by well-kept green areas. In addition, the oldest part of the settlement contains approximately 110 prefabricated units in which the founding members lived. Today these are occupied by families waiting to move into new homes elsewhere in the settlement.

ACCORDING to Samaria Regional Council spokeswoman Ahuva Shilo, the community of Barkan has become more appealing due to the enormous industrial complex next door. The 160-family settlement is planning to sell 45 "build your own home plots" and has plans for hundreds more.

Indeed, the 100-factory industrial park, which employs 4,000 workers from the region, is very impressive. Park director Ety Aloush explains that in 1989, when the park was first established, there were only 25 factories. Now she is inundated with requests from businesses wanting to set up there.

A large mall at the park's entrance offers every service factories may require, including

a post office, bank and cafeteria. "The aim is that factory owners will be able to order any supplies they need without leaving the complex," she says.

SITUATED on three hillsides under the jurisdiction of the Kamei Sbonroo local council are Ginit Sbonroo, established in 1975 and home to 250 families; Kamei Sbonroo, established in 1977, with 750 families (including a new neighborhood called Neveh Aliza, with 60 houses inhabited by new immigrants from Western countries); and Neveh Meoahem, founded in 1991, which has 120 houses that were completed before the former government declared a freeze, and cement shells of 300 buildings that were affected by the freeze and have stood empty since 1992.

When the area was established, plans were drawn up for 2,400 units there. A road joining Kamei Sbonroo and Ginit Sbonroo was built in 1992, says council engineer Ada Ginsburg, who adds that by next year she hopes the road to Neveh Meoahem will be completed.

In Ginit Sbonroo, the Housing Ministry recently allowed the sale of 75 units that had been left empty due to the freeze.

See SETTLERS, Page 20

**Government financial incentives have persuaded many non-ideological Israelis that now is the time to move across the Green Line.**

**Settlements are inundated with requests from families seeking to purchase a private house with a yard.**

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In the spotlight: Ehud Barak campaigning in Haifa

(Roni Sofer)

# In Barak's shadow:

Tuesday's Labor Party leadership contest was over before it ever began. A year after its stinging defeat, the party is obsessed with one issue: beating Bibi at the next poll. Most members believe Ehud Barak is the only one who can do that. They may be braced to vote for Barak, but many Laborites secretly — and not so secretly — prefer other candidates, as Larry Derfner, Allison Kaplan Sommer and Abraham Rabinovich discovered on the campaign trail of the four contenders.



'That's the head.' Yossi Beilin at a Jerusalem press conference

(Ariel Jorjoniashvili)

## Born to rule?

One after another, members of Kibbutz Ramat Yohanan came up to shake hands with Ehud Barak on Sunday, slap him on the back and recall their days together in the army or the kibbutz movement. "I feel at home here," Barak told about 150 people in the dining room of this kibbutz east of Haifa, not far from Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon where he grew up. "As I drove in, I saw places where I used to play in my childhood, and people with whom I fought in the Yom Kippur War," he said.

That night, at the inauguration of the Yitzhak Rabin Social Sciences and Mathematics Complex at Haifa University, Barak greeted Rabin's daughter, Dalia Rabin Pelosoff, with a familiar, "Ahlan" ("Hi"), and they kissed each other on the cheek.

Shaking hands with Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar Yashuv Cohen, Barak greeted him with a "Sholem aleichem."

Barak is one of those Israeli aristocrats who has many, many thousands of friends and acquaintances. He is at the top of the kibbutz-IDF-Labor Party establishment. Most observers believe it is a foregone conclusion he will win Tuesday's Labor primary by a landslide.

As a former IDF chief of staff and as the most decorated soldier in Israeli history, Barak, 55, has an infectious air about him that suggests that the leadership of the Labor Party is his by right, that he was bred for it. "I see myself, first and foremost, as the continuation of Yitzhak

Ehud Barak has an infectious air about him that suggests the leadership of the party is his by right, Larry Derfner reports

and Shimon," he told his audience at Ramat Yohanan.

A German TV crew was following Barak around. In the visitors' lounge at Haifa University, he shook hands with a line of foreign donors who were introduced to him, telling them in his gravelly, lisp-like voice, "It's my pleasure to meet you."

Sir Anthony Jacobs, chairman of the university's Board of Governors, told him, "In England, only one name in the Israeli opposition is ever mentioned, and I happen to be talking to him." Jacobs spoke about Tony Blair's victory, and Barak said little, smiling his Robert De Niro smile.

The absolute certainty of his primary victory, however, makes his campaign dull. He doesn't have to fight, he doesn't even have to sweat. Standing in the kibbutz dining room

with a microphone in his hand, his other hand resting on his hip or making fiddling gestures in the air, Barak spoke for a half-hour, running through probably every position in the Labor Party platform. Towards the end, about a third of the audience was staring into space. "Well," the emcee said afterward, "the opening remarks turned into a lecture, but that's also good." Barak raised an eyebrow, and went on eating his crackers and pretzels.

He got medium applause from his listeners, but he can expect to get a lot of votes from them. Four kibbutzniks talking among themselves all said they were voting Barak. "He's a leader," explained Ofer Levy. "He was my son's commander," noted an elderly woman.

At Haifa University, Mayor Amram Mitzna — another former army general who had a niche in Labor carved out and waiting for him — offered more substantial reasons: "I've known Ehud for many years. He has amazing personal capacities — brilliant powers of analysis; he can deal with details and keep the big picture in front of him at the same time. He has great skill at managing large organizations. Together, this makes him the right man for the job."

Above all, though, Labor voters see Barak as their Great White Hope — possibly the only challenger with the stature and centrist image to beat Binyamin Netanyahu in the 2000 elections, if not before. A Gallup Poll published last weekend showed Barak leading Netanyahu among Jewish voters 45% to 40%; Israeli Arabs would likely prefer him over the prime minister by a much wider margin.

And he does come across as a winner. When he wasn't rambling on about policy and party unity, and instead presenting his strategy for winning the general election, Barak was impressive. To win, he said, he didn't have to reverse Netanyahu's huge majority among working-class Sephardim; he only had to dent it.

That's what Rabin did in 1992, he noted — raising Labor's total from 20% to 35% in one development town, from 20% to 25% in another. "Rabin won by moving 2% of the vote from the Right to the Left," he told the audience. As for the barefaced, he said, "We won't change them, but maybe we will dampen their enthusiasm to bring down any candidate who comes from the Left."

During this brief passage, Barak talked confidence, can-do spirit to the kibbutzniks. The Labor Party, he said, has come to view Netanyahu's victory "almost deterministically. As soon as it was known Netanyahu had won, even by a hair, then all of a sudden it was as if it was predestined, as if the writing was on the wall."

"[But] it wasn't predestined, it wasn't written on the wall — it's in our hands, and we can change it, and that's what we plan to do."

That day was Lag Ba'Omer, and a reported 150,000 people went up to Mt. Meron for the annual religious revival. Netanyahu was there, and his supporters sang, "Bibi King of Israel" to him. Barak chose not to attend. It seemed a surprising decision for an ambitious, would-be prime minister, but Barak explained that it was a practical one.

"We're at the height of the primary campaign, and I don't think too many of those people are Labor Party members," he said. "But I'm going to see what I can do to bring them into the Labor Party. From next year on, I'll be there."

## More brain than brawn

Yossi Beilin says he's on a quest to save the party from a Barak dictatorship, Allison Kaplan Sommer writes

Someone truly perceptive came up with Dr. Yossi Beilin's campaign slogan. The phrase, "Beilin — that's the head," appears on all of his campaign material. The word "head" carries a double meaning: stating that Beilin should head the Labor Party and at the same time stressing his intellectual skills.

But the slogan-writer unconsciously brought to light Beilin's greatest weakness: it takes more than a sharp brain to convince people to choose you as their leader, it also takes heart and muscle — or at least the appearance of possessing them.

Beilin, calm and analytical by nature, lacks the good-old-boys-slap-on-the-back rapport that have lifted politicians like Bill Clinton and Binyamin Netanyahu to power in recent years.

He also lacks the Rabinesque macho military aura that the front-runner in the Labor race, Ehud Barak, exudes, and which most of the Labor Party leadership has decided to bank on as an "electable" quality. Even Laborites who prefer his outspoken, clear, dovish views over Barak's fuzziest centrist positions admit they want to win the election and return to power more than they want their views reflected by the leader of their party.

Hence, Beilin, No. 2 in the polls, has found it difficult to overtake the charismatic former chief of staff.

Walking into the Radium radio station in Rosh Ha'ayin on Monday morning, impeccably groomed in suit and tie, Beilin resists attempts by the station's gregarious owner, David Ben-Bassat, to informally schmooze.

Beilin is polite to a fault. Ben-Bassat asks if Beilin ever listens to Radium when he is driving.

Lamely, unconvincingly, Beilin nods his head without making eye contact with Ben Bassat and mumbles "Sometimes" — then quickly adds, "You know, I make a lot of phone calls in the car." But once comfortably seated in the studio, talking politics and policy into the microphone, Beilin is far more relaxed.

He hits his stride as he reviews the main points of his campaign for Labor leadership. He makes no secret of the fact that it is not a post he has craved over the years, but that his decision to run was made when it appeared that Barak was about to be

crowned Labor leader without any real opposition. His is not a candidacy of personal ambition, he contends, it is a quest to save the Labor Party from a Barak dictatorship. While first professing his admiration for Barak as a military man, he proceeds to shoot darts into his candidacy.

"Ehud Barak is an unknown quantity, he has been in politics for less than two years and has never fought a public battle in his life. He will try to beat Bibi Netanyahu by emulating him, and trying to appeal to a centrist vote that I don't believe exists. I reject this strongman approach — painting yourself as being in the center and then only later saying what you really think."

He returns to a theme of his campaign: "Barak says that only he can win. But polls show us both beating Netanyahu — the question is not then who can beat Bibi, but who should lead the Labor Party." It is a line he has to adjust later on that day, as a poll comes out showing Barak with a far better chance of a victory against Netanyahu than he has.

In general, Monday was not a good press day for Beilin. His "shadow cabinet" was published in the press, and was ridiculed by Barak, whom he slotted as defense minister. Barak joked that the odds of his becoming defense minister were as slim as Beilin's chances of being elected Labor leader.

After the radio interview, Beilin headed back to the Knesset to spend the afternoon in Labor Party meetings, to give an interview to *Ma'ariv*, and to attend the no-confidence vote.

Then it was back to the campaign trail and a meeting at a home in Beit Shemesh. The scene sounds incongruous — Yossi Beilin in Beit Shemesh, one of the toughest Likud

strongholds in the country. But Beilin met with an extremely supportive group of some 20 of the town's most dovish Laborites at activist Yair Tevet's villa in the up-market Givat Sharet neighborhood.

"Not only is this group not reflective of Beit Shemesh," admitted Tevet, "but it doesn't even represent the Labor Party in Beit Shemesh. Most of them are at a Barak rally taking place in town tonight."

Again, Beilin opens the forum with his critique of Barak and the need for him to face some opposition instead of cruising to the leadership, noting that "no one can disagree with his views because no one knows what they are."

Beilin's own views are as clear as they are controversial: support for a Palestinian state, specific arrangements for the status of the settlements, the belief that Israel should exchange peace with security guarantees from Syria for a return to the international borders on the Golan Heights.

He advocates a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, "preferably" with a signed agreement, but he would settle for informal understandings. "It is easier to guard our country from within rather than without," he says. "There is no need for our soldiers to continue dying in Lebanon."

Beilin's reviews from the group were favorable. However, all of the positive comments were followed up with reservations about his electability.

"He is a serious guy, modest, he has no airs, does not put on a show," says Avner Ra'an, a retired air force officer now in private business in Beit Shemesh, "but he lacks charisma."

"For a party to win an election today you need a central force, a personality. I support Beilin but I don't think he will make it."

"He impresses me. I don't go for the aggressive style; all of the yelling in politics today. But I'm in the minority," said Sarit Ramon, a youth counselor. "He has to find a tactic to make himself stand out in a crowd. His body language makes him look insecure."

Yehiel Erez, a bearded, barefoot, old-style socialist who writes for a Beit Shemesh publication, summed up Beilin's image problem the most succinctly: "He knows how to sell his ideas, but he doesn't know how to sell himself."

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# The Labor leadership countdown



A somber candidate: Ephraim Sneh at a bar mitzva, in Upper Nazareth. (Roni Sefer)



'My heart is for Ben-Ami, but my brain is for Barak,' says Haifa activist Shlomo Erez (right), enjoying a moment with Ben-Ami. (Jonathan Bloom)

## The cult favorite

He's the only candidate stressing a social message, the only Sephardi, the only newcomer. Shlomo Ben-Ami is the underdog with nowhere to go but up, writes Larry Derfner

Shlomo Erez is working for the sho-in candidate, MK Ehud Barak, in the Labor Party primaries campaign. Yet on a recent evening, he was sitting with a dozen other party members at Haifa's Labor headquarters, listening eagerly to the admired underdog in the race, the cult favorite, MK Shlomo Ben-Ami.

"My heart is for Ben-Ami, but my brain is for Barak," said Erez, 58, who used to head the Histadrut's Safed branch. "I'm for Barak for one reason — because I want to see Netanyahu, and Barak needs as big a majority as possible in the primaries to do this."

Smiling conspiratorially, Erez calls Barak "Napoleon" — his character on the *Hartszifim* TV program — and says he likes Ben-Ami because he's "very smart, simple, modest, friendly."

Laughing, he adds: "And he's a Moroccan, like me." Erez could have written Ben-Ami's campaign slogan — "The one I really want."

Sitting in the back seat of his campaign car, prodding his driver to speed it up as they went barreling through Galilee, late for a meeting with Israeli Arab Labor supporters, Ben-Ami was shaking his head — the party establishment, he's found, is filled with Shlomo Erezes.

"A few MKs who are publicly for Barak have come up to me on the sly and said they want to help me. Such cowards," he says.

"It's a demoralizing spectacle — all these people who are not to make a career for themselves, who support Barak because they think he'll help them become MKs in the 2000 elections. Nobody has any backbone, nobody will stand up for their principles."

It's not just the party establishment, though, whose main principle appears to be "winning is everything"; it seems the Labor rank-and-file is also ready to give Ben-Ami lots of kudos, but very few votes.

After the recent televised debate among the four candidates, a Teleset poll of Labor Party viewers found that 17.45 percent thought Ben-Ami the most convincing, placing him a close third behind MK Yossi Beilin.

Asked, however, which candidate had the best chance to lead the party back to power, 0.8 percent chose Ben-Ami, placing him last behind MK Ephraim Sneh.

Yet as a first-term, relatively unknown MK in a field of familiar faces, Ben-Ami, 53, has nowhere to go but up. This campaign is pure political profit for him.

He has an enviable niche: the only candidate stressing a social

message, the only Sephardi, and, as a newcomer, the only one free from the baggage of last year's election defeat.

"Sneh headed the campaign for the religious vote. Behind the campaign for the immigrant vote. These were critical sectors that voted overwhelmingly for Netanyahu. Barak, for his part, headed Peres's personal campaign. And now these same people are asking to lead the party again. In no other democracy could this happen," he says.

Ben-Ami, a Tel Aviv University professor of modern European history and former ambassador to Spain, argues that by concentrating solely on the peace process, Labor has become the party of the elite, alienating itself from the poor, the Sephardim and the religious.

Only by standing for policies that help the poor, clarifying that "there is no contradiction between democracy and tradition," and acquiring a human touch, he says, can Labor earn the allegiance of the common folk.

Last week, Labor political consultant Haim Assa wrote in *Ma'ariv*, "Netanyahu will remain in power until Labor voters understand what Shlomo Ben-Ami is telling them."

Outgoing Labor secretary-general Nissim Zivili has called Ben-Ami a "phenomenon," saying his campaign is "planting seeds that will bear fruit for him in the future."

Still, a political campaign is not only about ideas, it's also about getting from Point A to Point B, and the Ben-Ami campaign was stuck in traffic in the middle of Sakhnin, keeping a living room full of Arab voters waiting. "A traffic jam in an Arab village. Unbelievable," he fumes.

He finally gets to the house, hogs the host, shakes hands with a dozen or so men who stand to greet him, sits down and begins apologizing profusely for being late and having to cut the visit short. Again and again, he promises to come back here within a week after the primaries, "no matter what the outcome." If there are any hurt feelings in the house, they seem to be assuaged.

"We on the Left — Labor and Meretz — always took the Israeli

Arab vote for granted," Ben-Ami tells his listeners. "We thought the Arabs would vote for us simply because we're for the peace process, but we never considered that maybe the Arabs were tired of this." He makes sure to point out that he recently spearheaded Labor's official assent to a future Palestinian state.

"People, are you prepared to forgive my rudeness and hutzpa?" he asks, preparing to leave. "You don't have to exaggerate," says one of the guests.

Arriving in Haifa and heading up the stairs of the Labor HQ, Ben-Ami smiles cynically and says, "The Kremlin of Haifa." Inside, he tells the voters, mainly pensioners, that by disregarding the poor, "Labor left a void and Shas filled it."

"What do I have to do in this country, join a yeshiva?" one man calls out.

"Shas, Shas," a woman moans.

"There's a return to high unemployment — it's now 7.5 percent," Ben-Ami says. "There are development towns that look like they've gone through a war. State-funded pensions, free child care, free education for everyone — these are the issues we can carry forward, as a party of the people, and return to power."

But the audience wants to know: can he beat Netanyahu? "You're not seeing me at my best, believe me, and those of you who watched me in the [TV] debate know it. I don't know anybody in the Labor Party who can compete with Netanyahu on television like I can," he says. "I drove all around this country for two-and-a-half years, alone, in the cold, in the rain, before I ran for Knesset. I am one determined Jew, and I don't give up."

Afterward, everybody crowds around Ben-Ami to shake his hand. A few even promise to vote for him.

Shlomo Erez, the Barak campaign activist, knows Ben-Ami from years back. He comes up to the candidate and hugs him. They're smiling and laughing, and Erez tells Ben-Ami, "I was just saying, 'My heart is for Ben-Ami, but my brain is for Barak.'"

Ben-Ami, still smiling and laughing, looks Erez in the eye. "Nobody's perfect," he says.

## His father's son

What Ephraim Sneh lacks in charisma, he makes up for in dogged determination, Abraham Rabinovich reports

If Job's resolve were to be tested in a modern setting he could well be a politician striding into a shopping mall at peak hour — smile in place, antiseptic up, personality projector flashing — to find no one there.

Ephraim Sneh has been through worse in his life — he served as a paratroop medical officer at the horrific battle at the Chinese Farm in Sinai in the Yom Kippur War. He was also present at Labor Party headquarters in the last elections. But there was something ineffably sad about the sight of the candidate, geared up to work his way through throngs of voters, idly pausing in an empty corridor to examine the window display of a bookshop.

None of his local aides could explain why the Nazareth shopping mall, serving both the Jews of the upper city and the Arabs of the lower, should be so empty at 6 p.m. on a Monday. Perhaps a soccer game on television, someone suggested.

But Sneh, after purchasing a gift voucher in the bookstore, demonstrated the mettle of a seasoned politician. "This is a clear-cut result of the breakdown in the peace process," he said to the one reporter tagging along. "Foreign investments have fallen and it's affecting the economy."

Sneh is probably the least charismatic of the four candidates for the Labor leadership but the one with the most diverse life experience. A medical doctor and a career army officer, he participated in the Entebbe rescue, served as head of the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria and commanded the security zone in south Lebanon. He retired from the army as a general in 1987, and later served as a special emissary on a number of difficult political missions for prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, including making early contacts with the PLO and assignments abroad. He practiced medicine in civilian life, had extensive contacts in the Arab sector, and served as health minister in the previous government.

Most of all, perhaps, Sneh is his father's son. Dr. Moshe Sneh was one of the most fascinating personalities to have graced Israel's public life. His heritage may explain his son's dogged determination to reach the political pinnacle despite adverse odds and a personality that seems bereft of the ego level necessary to sustain most politicians in high places.

From an old Hassidic family in Poland, the elder Sneh had changed religion for the ideology of the modern world, including socialism and Zionism. He too was an army medical officer — with the prewar Polish army — and man-

aged to escape to Palestine with his wife after Poland's fall.

He was embraced by the Zionist establishment and became commander of the Hagana for a period. There were many who saw the articulate, forceful figure as a future prime minister. But his political orientation shifted steadily leftward until he joined the communist party and became its leader in the Knesset. His old comrades in the Israeli mainstream were shocked and accused him of going over to the other side.

The elder Sneh went through another dramatic reversal after the Six Day War when his tone became increasingly patriotic, countering the Soviet anti-Israel line. When he died in 1972, he left a public testament, read out at a rally by Ephraim, then 28. In it, Moshe expressed "repentance at having totally rejected Zionism."

In his will, he asked that Ephraim recite the Kaddish at his grave. In a defiant aside to his atheistic comrades in the party, he said in his will, "I see Jewish tradition as the secret of our survival."

Asked whether his parents had been a strong influence on him, Ephraim responded enthusiastically. "Yes, but not from indoctrination. What I learned from my parents I learned from personal example, not preaching."

WHETHER OR not he was pursuing his father's destiny in the Nazareth shopping mall this week, Sneh did not waver. After a quarter hour of shaking the hands of shop owners in the absence of customers, he was confronted by an elderly woman shopper. "I knew your mother [a pediatrician] in Tel Aviv," said the woman, who introduced herself as a Golomb, one of the state's founding families. "She treated my daughter. A wonderful woman."

As they chatted, a circle began to form around Sneh as shoppers

magically appeared. The circle soon began to represent the circle of his life. A young woman, accompanied by her husband, stopped in her tracks upon seeing Sneh and asked whether he remembered her. "What a small world," he cried. "Tell me about yourself and your father." Their acquaintance had its origins in a tip made by Sneh to Baku several years ago on Rabin's behalf for purposes he declines to discuss.

There he met the Azerbaijani defense minister who asked him to pass on greetings to an old friend now living in Rehovot. Upon returning to Israel, Sneh did so. At the Rehovot man's request, Sneh arranged for the immigrant's daughter — the young woman — to take a course as a physiotherapist. She had been a doctor in Baku but was unable to pass the qualifying exam in Israel. Sneh also found work for the father, an engineer, with the Israel Electric Corp.

"I'm now working as a physiotherapist at the health fund here," she said, "and my father's still with the electric company." The deputy mayor of Upper Nazareth, Edna Rodrig, who was escorting Sneh through the mall, turned out to be the wife of one of the officers under his command in the Yom Kippur War.

Others who came up to greet him included Arabs he knew. One was a Christian from Nazareth who had studied dentistry in Russia and, like the Baku doctor, was unable to pass the qualifying examination in Israel. Sneh advised him to spend time observing a local dentist at work before taking the examination again.

"I've traveled 40,000 kilometers in my car since I started these rounds last July," he said as he left for Labor Party headquarters in Upper Nazareth. "That's the equivalent of a trip around the world."

"Enjoy it? Yes. I enjoy the human landscape and the landscape of the country."

For half an hour at party headquarters, he outlined his program to a score of supporters. It was a detailed, overly long presentation. What came through was earnestness and a sense of mission. "I say the same things at every meeting but I change the way I say it so that I don't bore myself," he confided afterwards.

A silver-haired man in the room named Boris said he favored Sneh's program and Sneh personally. "But I don't see how you will beat [Ehud] Barak." A woman in the hall was consoling. "You'll certainly be part of the ruling circle," she said.

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# Will Beirut ever be Paris again?

Lebanon's prime minister is trying to shed the country's war-torn image and attract massive foreign investment. So far, the West is not convinced, Steve Rodan reports

It was billed as a two-day congress of Arab investors meeting to talk about Lebanon's future. There was Khaled Fayez, president of the Gulf Investment Institution. Nearby was Abdel Latif Hamed, president of the Arab Economic and Development Fund. All in all, about 350 high-powered businessmen arrived at the conference sponsored by Lebanon's central bank.

Raouf Abu Ziki, a Lebanese economic analyst, came to the point. Lebanon needs a huge amount of money for reconstruction and development: between \$350 and \$400 billion over the next decade. The question he asked was whether the West, let alone the Arab world, had enough belief in Beirut to restore its title of the Paris of the Middle East.

These days, Lebanese politicians are asking the international financial community to suspend disbelief. Lebanon is occupied by about 40,000 Syrian troops, which has led to the elimination of any open criticism of Damascus. About an hour from Beirut, Israeli and Hizbullah forces - with the blessing of the Lebanese government - slug it out daily. But in the Lebanese capital, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is trying to convince foreign investors that his country is ripe for their money.

Hariri, who became prime minister in October 1992, has tried his best to change Lebanon's image. He has invited US pop and blues artists as well as soccer stars. He had Pope John Paul II last month. And for the investors, the government opened a stock market; the shares traded there have a total value of \$1.2 billion.

The Lebanese aim has been to convince the US, which Hariri has wooed over the past two years, to abolish "travel restrictions for American citizens. Hariri's pitch is that the areas under formal Lebanese government control are safe. The 1975-90 civil war, which resulted in the deaths of 150,000 people, is long over. The era of kidnappings in the mid-1980s is a thing of the past. Government con-

tracts are bountiful and joint ventures are the rage. Foreign investors, however, have not succeeded in distinguishing between the violence in south Lebanon and the rest of the country.

Moreover, Lebanon's reconstruction policy has gone awry and the country now badly needs foreign aid as much as it does private capital. "Lebanon has been quasi-successful in attracting capital for infrastructure and real-estate related projects," says Ziad K. Abdellour, a Lebanese native and managing director of the New York-based InterBank/Birchall Equities. "However, what the country mostly needs is to develop its industrial and manufacturing base."

Further, there is a growing consensus in Lebanon today that they have been sold a bag of empty goods by Hariri and his friends. Hariri's appointment as prime minister nearly five years ago by Syria was meant to encourage investors to rebuild Lebanon. Hariri is the biggest stockholder in Solidere, the largest company in Lebanon and one of the largest in the Middle East, with capital of more than \$2.5 billion.

Some have invested in Lebanon. These include the Saudis, who are close to Hariri. There are also Kuwaitis and other Gulf executives as well as prominent members of what Abdellour estimates is a 15-million-strong Lebanese diaspora.

But the big money has not arrived. The Europeans have participated in a small number of joint ventures. The US is out of the picture. Safety is one big reason. Tens of thousands of Americans, mainly those with families in Lebanon, have defied the US travel ban and visited Lebanon. The travelers are given an entry visa on a separate sheet of paper. But they limit their investment in the country to helping their families.

Abdellour is disappointed in Lebanon. He and many other Lebanese natives now living in the



Downtown Beirut, 1976. Close to \$400 billion is needed to restore the Lebanese capital to its former glory.

(Pressens Bild/LPPA.)

West thought that Hariri would introduce democracy, rule of law and free trade to promote investors. Their hope was that Lebanon would change because in the end its rulers wanted to make money more than they wanted to have titles in a government under occupation.

But as Abdellour and his colleagues realized, the Hariri government is trying to have both. The result is that Lebanon remains a country built on payoffs.

There are competitive bids in Lebanon but if you are not part of the Hariri/Syrian apparatus, it is unlikely you are going to win any bids," he says. "That is unless of course you are General Electric. And then Hariri and his friends would want to take a piece of the action. No project gets off the ground without Hariri's approval."

of millions of dollars for reconstruction projects. The contracts themselves involve payoffs and kickbacks to government officials, who have established slush funds. Each minister is said to have his own slush fund.

The Syrians are also getting rich from the arms trade in Lebanon. Syrian officers charge hefty fees from Hizbullah to allow Iranian weapons to reach the Shi'ite fighters in the Bekaa Valley.

Western intelligence sources say that over the past year Iran has sent 37 plane loads of military equipment and ammunition, including ground-to-air missiles to Damascus. From there, the equipment goes by land to the Bekaa. Abdellour says that after all the kickbacks and bribes, less than half of the Lebanese contract award is actually designated to the project itself.

At the same time, the Syrians are usually those who are employed in the projects. Today, Western diplomats report, about one million

Syrians work in Lebanon. They have resettled the country, with a population of 3.1 million, and the diplomats say they are quietly changing the demographics as well as the character of Lebanon.

In December, a busload of Syrian workers was attacked; one passenger was killed and seven wounded. At the same time, leaflets were distributed in Christian areas calling for a revolt against Damascus's influence in Lebanon.

"Damascus is clearly turning Lebanon into its private economic engine by allowing Beirut to attract foreign investment and launch huge construction projects and reopen its financial markets," Abdellour says. "There is no upturn in the economy. The Lebanese pound is artificially high. There is a severe liquidity crunch among citizens."

The statistics: Western economists say the purchasing power of the Lebanese pound has decreased by 40 percent since Hariri assumed

power. Unemployment is reported at 35 percent. The budget deficit is 50 percent. Lebanon's debt is \$14 billion, up from \$1b. in 1990.

Abdellour expects Lebanon's debt to increase to \$19b. in 1998 and \$25b. in 1999. "Hariri is a brilliant construction man but a very lousy manager," he says. "At the rate Lebanon is going it is headed toward bankruptcy."

A 1995 Lebanese Cabinet policy statement confirms the bad news. "The document complains that many of the reconstruction projects have not been implemented. 'Until this happens this stage will seem difficult for citizens and will require the collaboration of all in efforts to control the budget deficit,' the statement said."

Hariri believes the key is US investment and that means an end to the travel restrictions imposed by Washington. For the last two years, Lebanese officials have been fulfilling US demands to improve security in an attempt to lift the travel ban.

US law enforcement officials have called for numerous changes in Beirut's international airport. These include relocating of runways, installing sophisticated security equipment at the airport, and adding new roads that would bypass Beirut's Hizbullah-dominated southern suburbs. Some US officials say they are hoping the White House will reconsider its restrictions on American travel by the end of the summer.

"The Lebanese will do whatever we want," a US official says. "They just want to satisfy us so there is free travel. The problem is we don't think we can guarantee the safety of Americans from another wave of kidnappings."

Abdellour says the White House is justified in moving slowly. "American investors will not come to Lebanon unless travel restrictions are completely lifted," he says. "And rightly so. Why should they invest in the region when a loose bunch of mullahs are on the run?"

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מכתבים לאביב

MIDDLE ISRAEL

# Gold, God and Glory



By AMOTZ ASAEI

I was one of those bright, quiet, crisp mornings with which the humble, solemn and remote Jerusalem of the mid-'60s was abundantly endowed.

Ambling along Rehov Mesilat Yesharim together with a few of my third-grade classmates our thoughts were focused on whether we'd make it to school on time for the eight o'clock bell.

But the bell never rang that day.

Seized by an ear-piercing siren and a cacophonous orchestra of whistling artillery bombs, sparking mortar salvos and crackling machine-gun fire, we all dashed to the school's gym, which substituted for a shelter. There, pale as plaster, we and the rest of our roughly 600 schoolmates joined — first as spectators, then as actors — what would unfold as a bewildering, emotional, and violent drama of biblical dimensions called the Six Day War.

The few teachers at hand — most males had been enlisted during the three weeks since Egypt mobilized its army — made us sing; it kept us busy, and probably also had a therapeutic effect on our congregation of scared-stiff boys who didn't know what to expect.

Then, at 10 a.m., a chubby and bespectacled teacher named Ya'acov Dov brandished a transistor radio, somehow silenced the auditorium and shouted: "The IDF has this morning obliterated the Egyptian Air Force." At once, the hitherto prevalent sense of gloom gave way to the kind of euphoria which would subsequently intoxicate, deafen and blind much of this country's admirers, citizens and leaders. Until today, whenever I pass by there I

recall how our little throats' frantic singing shook the foundations of the stout building where I learned how to read, write, and conquer.

Later that day parents kept on trickling through to pick up their children. My father and I — after racing home in Shmulk Wohlberg's father's minuscule Fiat 1500, sardined along with another eight kids — were dropped off about 70 meters from home. He took me by the hand and shepherded me under heavy bombardment to the shelter in our nine-family apartment building.

Just what went through my father's mind when the radio announced, two days later, the conquest of the Old City — I'll never fully know. But I do know that during a lifetime dominated by the shadow, echo and thick of war — ever since the abandonment of his native Czechoslovakia to Hitler's devices — none but those few years between June '67 and October '73 made him, like the entire state of Israel, feel like a true vicar.

Actually, it was much more than just a sense of short distance between Rehavia and downtown Jerusalem was canceled; why maintain something which is small, short or modest, went the conventional wisdom: we're big, we're grand, we're imperial, and as such could settle down for nothing smaller than king-size.

In town, Bahari's famous *garinim* snacks store featured a refrigerator-sized poster of defense minister Moshe Dayan. A few kilometers from there, the general in charge of the central command held in his headquarters a *Chai* full of lions. On newly repatriated Mt. Scopus, where a new campus was being designed for the Hebrew University, the big boss had infested a group of previously sober architects, whose eventual monstrosity still looms ominously as a monument to Israel's post-'67 megalomania.

In short, this country was mad.

Little did we know that ours would be a brush with classical colonialism's three infamous pillars — Gold, God and Glory. Surely, in the case of the European settlers

of Africa, America and Asia, those three Gs were preoccupied targets aimed at proselytizing natives, extracting their raw materials and expanding the conquerors' global reach. Israel's case was markedly different, since its war was provoked by others, and waged — among other sites — in its very capital city, rather than in far-flung continents. The assorted British, French, Spanish, Portuguese or Belgian bureaucrats who orchestrated the subjugation and looting of entire nations never felt insecure in their plush European headquarters.

Indeed, the most exhilarating aspect of the '67 experience was the collective sense of threat, and the spirit of voluntarism which it generated. The subconscious awareness that, a mere 22 years after the Holocaust, the Jewish state's very existence was at stake, made Israel's of all stripes huddle together. In the weeks before the war mini-skirted teenagers and bearded yeshiva students jostled sandbags, and mothers stood at junctions with home-made sandwiches which they eagerly handed to soldiers on their way to the front. Once the war broke out, our neighborhood grocer filled his limping Susta car with produce and drove it — under fire — from shelter to shelter, refusing to take money. There must have been many more like him.

And yet the Six Day War's cathartic aftermath transmitted to us the old colonialist disease whose symptom was that ill-fated search for Gold, God and Glory. Only a very few wise people among us — most notably David Ben-Gurion and philosopher Yeshayahu Leibowitz — immediately understood that occupation would be morally degenerating and politically suicidal.

The Yom Kippur War, of course, would deal a swift death blow to that glory-mania. The intifada would do so to the Gold component of the equation, as the Oslo and Camp David Accords would to its God segment.

About those — in the next two weeks.

Next Friday: Fatal attraction: The curse of Palestinian labor

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

Jerusalem as a whole is of primary celestial and spiritual significance — and of equally vital religious and political importance in the 40-century-long history of the Jews.

Certain sites in Jerusalem are of cardinal religious importance in the 20-century-long Christian history. Because of the political history of certain Christian denominations, especially the Catholic Church, the city became of cardinal political importance to them, leading them to lay a claim to it they regard as equal to, if not superseding, that of the Jews.

A certain site in Jerusalem, the Jews' Temple Mount, is of tertiary religious significance in the 14-century-long Moslem history. Because of a relatively late development in Moslem political ideology, Moslems, especially the Arab branch of Islam, came to lay a claim to the entire city that they regard as equal to, if not superseding, the claims of the Jews and Christians.

Here are some vignettes illustrating the Jews' special affinity to the city.

WE HAILED a taxi in Hantke Street in Jerusalem's Kiryat Hayovel neighborhood where we live. After we started riding, I noticed that the vehicle had no interior, indicating that the driver was an independent cruiser. I asked him about it.

"That's right," he said. "I like my freedom. I drive when and where I want, and I don't have to answer to anyone or share my earnings."

It transpired that he lived in the Neveh Ya'acov neighborhood, a good half-hour away even when the road is clear. "You're pretty far from home here in Kiryat Hayovel," I said.

"You call this far from home?" he retorted. "For 2,600 years I was even farther from home! This is nothing! I'm from Gruzia [Russian Georgia]. Nebuchadnezzar [the Babylonian king who destroyed the Temple in 586 BCE] exiled us there 2,600 years ago. But we never let go of the connection with Jerusalem."

ANOTHER TIME my taxi was approaching my destination. It was in a section of Jerusalem containing, among others, a cluster of streets named after the biblical kings of Judah, including

Hizkiyahu/Hazekiah, and another cluster named after the Hasmoneans, including Matityahu/Mattathias, who together with his five "Maccabean" sons launched the successful revolt against the country's Seleucid Syrian occupiers celebrated in the Hanukkah festival.

The driver reported over his intercom to the dispatcher. The dispatcher told him to pick up a passenger in King Hizkiyahu Street.

The static on the intercom blurred the dispatcher's instruction, and the driver asked: "Did you say King Matityahu Street?"

The dispatcher snapped back: "Hizkiyahu, Hizkiyahu! Matityahu was never king!"

DR. JENNY Weil of Jerusalem was explaining the benefits of foreign travel to the driver of her taxi. Listing the beauties of Paris, the excitement of New York, the fascination of Yosemite National Park, etc., etc.

The driver, who was bareheaded, clinched the argument: "Oh, no, I'm not leaving Jerusalem. It'll be just my luck that *davka* when I'm off in Paris *Messiah* [Messiah] will come, and I want to be here when he comes!"

I WAS shopping in the Mahaneh Yehuda *shuk* before Rosh Hashana, looking for special fruits we had not eaten all year over with which to recite the *Shehecheyanu*, thanksgiving benediction. Behind one stall the hawkler was shouting: "Guaval *Shehecheyanu*! The boss has gone off his rocker! Three-and-a-half shekel a kilo instead of five! Guaval *Shehecheyanu*!"

A MAN dashed distraught into the Mahaneh Yehuda hardware store and asked for materials and tools to repair a burst pipe flooding his bathroom.

"Not to worry," the proprietor said as he started assembling the required items, and quoted the first half of Song of Songs 8:7: "Much water cannot quench love..."

His assistant chimed in with the second half, "...and no flood can sweep it away."

RABBI PROF Bernard Mandelbaum and his wife, Malka, were already at the supermarket cashier's counter awaiting their turn to pay, when she remembered she had forgotten to get a bottle of her favorite mineral water.

After searching a while and not finding it, she called to her husband: "Where's Mei Eden [Waters of Eden]?"

"One of the cashiers piped up: 'Genesis chapter two, verse ten!'"

IT WAS in 1961 or 1962, Jerusalem's first traffic light had only recently been installed, at the southwest corner of Jaffa and King George, where the Yampolsky Brothers pharmacy was situated.

I was in Tel Aviv. I don't remember what was on my mind, but I daydreamed my way across

Dizengoff corner Frishman, one of the city's busier intersections, against a red light. I was awakened by a policeman into whose very arms I walked.

He asked me for my identity booklet, which I handed to him. He opened it, glanced at the page, then looked me up and down, and asked: "Are you a Jerusalemite?"

I confirmed his surmise.

He handed my ID back to me and said gruffly: "Next time please be careful."

I WAS awaiting my turn in my health-fund clinic. After a while, an elderly woman came slowly up the stairs and shuffled towards the two men sharing the bench with her middle-aged son and his friend.

She and her son exchanged greetings, then she noticed the other man and said, in old-style Jerusalem Yiddish: "What are you doing here? You I want to see in the *Bays Hamikdash* [Temple], not in *Kupat Holim*!"

IT WAS in Jerusalem Yiddish that I first heard the ultimate salutation or parting blessing.

Customarily, one says: "A *gun tog* [Good day], responding with "A *gun voch* [Good week], or "A *gun yom* [Good year]."

The last word goes to the new response: "A *gun tomil* [A good always]."

Including: A *gun* 30th Jerusalem Day next Wednesday.

You can E-mail me at: [moshe@post.co.il](mailto:moshe@post.co.il)



By SHLOMO SHALOM

## External action versus internal intention

ly differ as to what is more significant — the external action or the internal intention. For example, if an individual desecrates the Sabbath without having intended to do so, R. Yehuda declares him culpable but R. Shimon absolves him of guilt. For the former Sage, it is the action that counts; for the latter it is the intent.

Another example relates to oil left in a lamp which had been lit before the start of a festival. R. Yehuda forbids use of this oil because when it was lit, the household had put it out of his mind for festival use, thereby rendering it *nutza* — forbidden to be moved — until the end of the festival day. R. Shimon rules that now that the light has gone out, the household can use the oil in a manner permitted on the festival. Since he now intends to use it for the sake of the festival, his initial intention is of no consequence.

In this light, the differences between these two Sages assume a different perspective. For R. Shimon, as long as no longer intend to eat the leavened bread, it has in effect ceased to exist; for R. Yehuda, physical destruction is necessary.

Building on the ideas of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, I would like to consider the disputes from a more theological point of view: How does Judaism deal with the problem of evil? Is evil an objective force which must be destroyed, or can evil — if we perceive the positive essence of every aspect of creation — be uplifted and redeemed?

R. Shimon believes that the ultimate task of the individual is to sanctify everything. R. Shimon is, after all, the teacher of the holy Zohar, the advocate of uniting all worlds and uplifting even the most far-flung sparks.

We presently find ourselves in the period between Pessah and Shavuot, between the physical but still incomplete redemption of the broken matza and the spiritual, all-embracing redemption of the Revelation at Sinai. The *hametz* (leavening) is the symbol of the raw emotions and base instincts; it is made to "cease to exist" (*tashbitu*) on Pessah.

On Shavuot, however, that very *hametz* — generally identified with materialism, pride and sexual licentiousness — becomes transformed into two holy loaves of *halla* on the altar to God. What was forbidden (or evil) 50 days ago has now been redeemed. If anything, Shavuot is a vision of the redeemability of every material object!

R. Yehuda insisted on destroying the *hametz* on Pessah; R. Shimon understood that it would only be necessary to re-route its function. R. Yehuda insists that the evil beasts will be destroyed when all that is evil is obliterated from the earth; R. Shimon maintains that the wild animals will still roam the forests, but that their evil will be transformed, their force and vigor will be utilized positively.

R. Yehuda sees the millennium as devoid of Amalek, the nation bent on the destruction of Israel; R. Shimon sees the millennium as devoid of the memory of ancient Amalek, for Amalek will repent and join with Israel.

I pray for the vision of R. Shimon.

And I will grant peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. I will cause evil beasts to cease, neither shall the sword go through your land. You will chase away your enemies, and they will fall before your sword." (Lev. 26:6)

What kind of world will exist "in the end of days"? Will the basic structure of the universe remain the same so that our present reality need not be utterly destroyed, or will the message age inaugurate a radically different physical existence?

This speculation was a preoccupation of two great Sages of the Mishna, and their views give rise to two different translations of a word in this week's Torah reading.

The opening of *Behukotai* sounds remarkably redolent of the messianic dream. God promises the Israelites that if we but observe His commandments, our physical needs will be taken care of and the danger of wild animals will be removed.

How are we to understand *v'hishbitu*, "cease to exist" — the Torah's expression for removing these wild animals?

The Midrash (Torat Kohanim) records that R. Yehuda defines *v'hishbitu* to mean that God will cause these "evil beasts" to disappear. R. Shimon, however, takes the word to mean that God will cause the evil of these beasts to cease; the beasts themselves will not be destroyed.

Since this is not the only dispute recorded between these two Sages, commentators have attempted to discern a fundamental difference in their positions.

The Rogatchover Gaon (Rabbi Joseph Rozin, 1858-1936) draws our attention to the command: "Seven days [of Pessah] shall you eat unleavened bread; but by the first day you shall have caused the leaven to exist (*tashbitu*) from your homes" (Ex. 12:15). The term for the "destruction" of leavening (*hametz*) is the same as the term for the destruction of wild beasts. And, true to form, we find the following differences of opinion: "R. Yehuda rules there is no destruction except with fire, but the Sages rule [including R. Shimon] that the leavened substance may be used in crumbs and scattered to the wind or thrown into the sea." (E.T. Pessahim 21a)

According to the Rogatchover, it's a semantic debate: R. Shimon (and the majority of the Sages) defines *tashbitu* as the destruction of an object's primary function. R. Yehuda, on the other hand, insists that destruction involves demolition of the object itself.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menahem Mendel Schneerson, saw it as an ideological difference of opinion. He suggests that R. Yehuda and R. Shimon consistent-

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Shabbat Shalom

THE WEEK THAT WAS

# Return to Sharm e-Sheikh

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

It was a great meeting at Sharm e-Sheikh. All smiles and jokes. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and President Hosni Mubarak flirted and schmoozed.

"You see, Mr. President, I told you the media always know what's going on, and call it a failure," joked Bibi chummily, if somewhat one-sidedly, with the Pres from Cairo.

The fact that the meeting was called to resurrect the dead peace process and nothing came out of it - not even a teeny push - did not mar the general cheery flow of non sequiturs about the big decision to meet again.

Indeed, Netanyahu and Mubarak were seen strolling out on the patio of the president's resort home while the Egyptian leader pointed out highlights of the scenery.

MacArthur-like, Netanyahu promised he would return to Sharm e-Sheikh. To fish.

Or was it to scuba dive? One could almost hear background strains of: "We've returned to you once more, O Sharm e-Sheikh," one of the most popular songs in these parts after the Six Day War.

Judging by the elated responses of Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy to the summit, a casual visitor might have assumed some crisis in our relations with Egypt have been solved.

If Netanyahu is being advised by intelligence heads of the inherent dangers of the present situation - at best, a bloody intifada, at worst a crisis leading to confrontation with the Arab world, and our sources assure us that he is - then he certainly isn't showing that it bothers him.

As for Levy, the sources say he is well aware that Israel's international status is low. But he is even more aware that he is powerless to change it.

## FRY THE FLAG

Summaries of Netanyahu's first year in government abounded. Scarcely less gloomy than the scathing assessments in the major foreign media and news agencies

was Channel 1's contribution. The channel tolled a solemn bell for the economic recession, escalating unemployment in the development towns, and ordinary citizens torn between disillusion and despair.

Just to show how far the Ziooist dream has fizzled, we were forced to watch the nation's flag being burnt in the streets of Mea She'arim on Lag Ba'omer, a few days after haredim on Rehov Bar Ilan stoned policemen standing in attention for the siren in memory of Israel's fallen soldiers.

"Something is just rotten in the baredi education system," concluded a disgusted Ra'anah Cohen, Labor faction chairman. And MKs from all factions nodded in agreement.

Haredi leaders opted for the unconvincing, cliched response that the best defense is attack, and they launched into yet another vicious assault on (surprise!) the media and the leftists.

It's a media and left-wing provocation, howled Jerusalem deputy mayor Haim Miller. He's the one who recently called the flag "a rag."

"I condemn burning the flag but there is no doubt that this is just a slander campaign against the haredi public. Instead of occupying themselves with secular schools' drug problems, they are concerned with whether a flag was burned or not."

Miller claimed that a news photographer had tricked an innocent haredi boy into burning a flag to cause a scandal. He ignored the Ma'ariv photographs of a huge bonfire of flags, surrounded by adults.

Unfortunately for him, a video clip from last year, which was broadcast the following day, showed that the ritual burning of the state flag was not an isolated incident on this Lag Ba'omer - nor was it a teenage prank.

Haredi MKs continued to whine that they were only being attacked because they are in power with a right-wing government.

As if realizing the national morale was in dire need of some uplift, the venerable Rabbi Ovadia Yosef came to the rescue with some comic relief.

\*All smokers should be put on



Prime Minister Netanyahu (right) and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak have a post-meeting stroll in Sharm e-Sheikh. (Reuters)

trial and given 40 lashes," he quipped.

A few weeks ago, Yosef said clowns and theater actors should get the electric chair. Other sinners - you have been warned. But one wonders what dire tortures the good rabbi might decree for "rag burners."

## SHADOW WOMEN

In a much-hyped publicity campaign Netanyahu this week came out against domestic violence. In fact, he said, fighting domestic violence is like fighting terrorism.

No problem with the attitude - but why did his sudden concern coincide with his government

slashing the anti-violence campaign budget in half, from NIS 3 million to NIS 1.5m?

And while on women's issues, how come there was not a word on the persisting fact that Israeli women are paid little over half of what their male counterparts in equivalent professions earn?

Maybe women can look to Labor's new leadership? Don't bank on it, despite a plethora of campaign promises of affirmative action and greater representation - but not equality.

The leaders of this semi-invisible main opposition party managed a brief photo-op appearance at the Labor women's forum. On their last furlough before next week's primaries, the candidates were bidding for some token women's votes.

Front-runner Ehud Barak promised to give a Scandinavian-

style boost to women in his cabinet. "more than any previous government." That's not saying much - there have ever been more than two.

No. 2 in the race, Yossi Beilin, didn't show up but sent a fax pledging to reserve seats for women in party institutions.

"If he's elected," sniffed Barak, "Beilin will be a fax prime minister. You [women] can be fax members of his shadow cabinet."

A day earlier, Beilin had said he would set up a British-style shadow cabinet. In this ethereal body, Barak would be defense minister, Haim Ramon foreign minister, Uzi Baram finance minister, and Shlomo Ben-Ami education minister. The women noted that the female presence there was shadowy indeed.

Barak commented that since Channel 2 made Beilin a *hartzuf* double, he had been issuing *Hartzufim* statements. Baram said thanks for the offer, but he had as much chance of being a shadow minister as Beilin had of being a shadow premier.

## GRAPEVINE

# A star-studded Yiddish feast

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Politely declining the pro-tekzia offered by Yiddishship director Shmuel Atzmon, Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office stood in line with other theatergoers at the Mann Auditorium box office and paid for his tickets for the premier of *Rozinkes mit Mandlen* ("Raisins and Almonds"). The wildly appreciative audience in the packed auditorium was a clear indication that it's still way too early to eulogize Yiddish. Seen in the crowd were former prime minister Yitzhak Shagrir and his wife Shulamit, former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat and his wife Ziva, Benny Bloch, the debonair husband of Hannah Laszlo who stars in the show with Dudu Fisher, Ya'acov Bodo and Monica, former IAF chief Motti Hod and Cellcom President and former GSS chief Ya'acov Peri.

WHAT IS the greatest tribute that one can pay to a close friend and associate of more than 20 years' standing? When US Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan spoke at Ben-Gurion University at the dedication of the Chaim Herzog Center for Middle Eastern and Diplomatic Research,

he recalled how he and Herzog had worked together in the 16-year struggle to overturn the notorious UN resolution equating Zionism with racism. To demonstrate his own repugnance for it, he held up a copy, and in an emulation of Herzog's dramatic dismissal of the resolution at the conclusion of his historic 1975 address to the UN, he tore it up.

In a high-keyed emotional memoir, Foreign Minister David Levy

ingly brought up the Zionism/racism issue until the mission he set himself was accomplished.

SEVERAL POSSIBLE scoops went unreported last Thursday night as hundreds of members of the Fourth Estate congregated on the lawns outside Beit Sokolov to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Tel Aviv Journalists Association. However, Uri Dan played a tape of an old scoop: his interview for Ma'ariv with Ugandan leader Idi Amin during the Entebbe hijacking.

Urging journalists to continue to fight for freedom of the press, Tel Aviv mayor Ronni MBO promised: "I'll help you even if you write against me."

ICONOCLASTIC historian and former Jerusalem Post staffer Benny Morris, who has a penchant for discovering the feet of clay of national idols, was for many years the black sheep of academia as a result of the many flaws which he found in the make-up of David Ben-Gurion. Morris, one of the school of "new historians," has accepted a teaching post at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, effective next February. The Ben-Gurion family

was none too happy about that and tried to block the appointment. Now that it's a *fait accompli*, Amos Ben-Gurion, the Old Man's son, is reportedly considering stepping down from the BGU Board of Governors if Morris becomes a campus fixture.

THE MUCH married Larry King is about to do it again. The popular CNN talk-show host is planning to



Larry King (Andrew Eccles)



Tom Hanks: Dreaming of hotels



Shirely Maclaine, doctor? (Hansoch Guttmann)

## LAST GASP

Sorry! With all the hundred of millions of shekels expenditure on building settlements in the West Bank and the roads around them, there's no money left for your pathetic little gas mask.

Channel 1 reported this week that the only gas-mask plant in Israel is closing this week. The security-with-peace government could not find the NIS 50,000 needed to distribute masks to those whose had ones that were faulty, or to those who didn't get one.

According to the IDF mit in charge of distribution, 1.9 million citizens are in need of new masks. Gasp!

recalled what an honor it had been during his previous term as foreign minister to sign Israel's request to have the resolution rescinded and to share in Herzog's triumph when that request was finally honored. Critics of Herzog's presidential peregrinations abroad never realized that many of his trips were part of a carefully planned strategy to get the nations of the world to reverse their votes of 1975. Moynihan disclosed that in his meetings with the parliaments of the countries which he visited, Herzog un-

take his seventh trip down the aisle - this time with Shawn Southwick, whom he met in front of Tiffany's in Manhattan. The 37-year-old bride-to-be is 26 years his junior.

THE GRASS is always greener on the other side, no matter how successful one may be. Film stars, though always in the limelight, occasionally wish for something else. In a recent television interview, Shirely Maclaine said she'd like to be a doctor, while Tom Hanks said he would like to be in the hotel business.

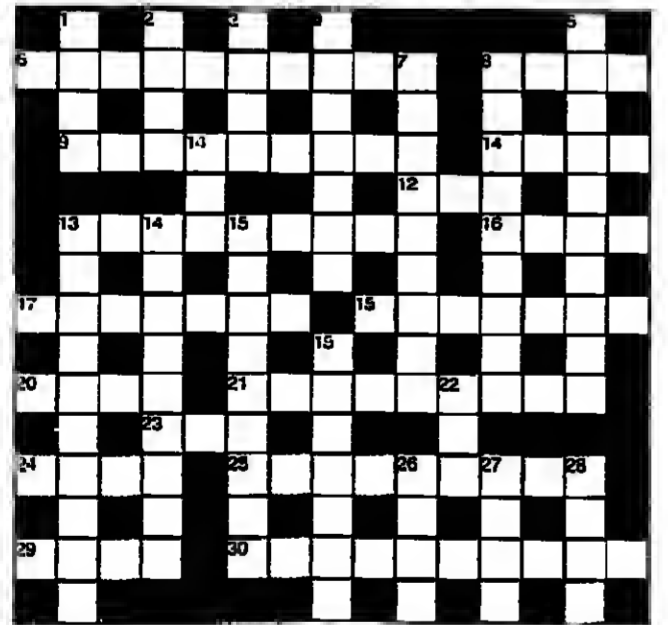
## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 61 limit arms production, despite warlike sentiments (10)
- 8 Extractor for grill (4)
- 9 Explained how isinglass affected wine (4,5)
- 11 A handsome French victim of fratricide (4)
- 12 It flies back and forth (3)
- 13 Herb added to a Spanish port (9)
- 16 One titled man returns to show the flag (4)
- 17 Saury for the master (7)
- 18 Confident of being given a life policy (7)
- 20 Suffered from a tidal wave (4)
- 21 Lamenting changes, but getting into line (9)
- 23 Yield to pressure over fuel (3)

### DOWN

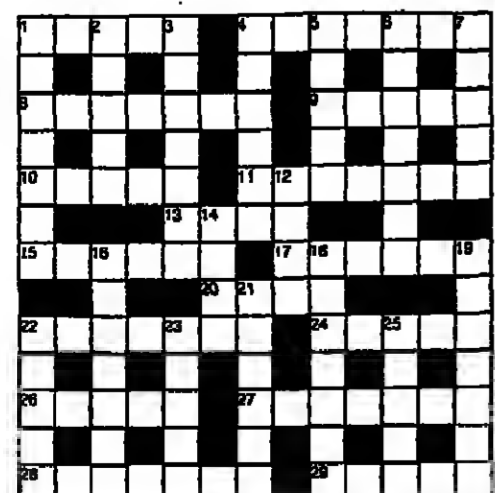
- 24 Retired general is heartened by incisiveness (4)
- 25 Sick comedy engenders bad temper (3,6)
- 29 Ornamental design causing distress (4)
- 30 Becoming distraught when rejected by others (5,5)
- 1 Well-established business (4)
- 2 Hear Oscar's disorderly (4)
- 3 Secular lecturer upset US agents (4)
- 4 Novelist read by males in Jerusalem (7)



## SOLUTIONS

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 FOREADAGEHERE  
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 HOTSPUR DEARTHLY

Yesterday's Quick Solution  
 ACROSS: 1 Sticker, 5 Round, 8 Base, 9 Fanclub, 10 Explain, 11 Eynas, 12 Abduct, 14 Ardent, 17 Kobab, 19 Eclogues, 23 Embargo, 25 Toga, 24 Sweet, 26 Fardoz.  
 DOWN: 1 Salsa, 2 Insipid, 3 Krona, 4 Refund, 5 Rancher, 6 Unite, 7 Dormant, 12 Anklets, 13 Cabaret, 16 Engaged, 19 Recoup, 18 Bible, 20 Later, 21 Essex.



## QUICK CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Corrupt (5)
- 4 Ball game (7)
- 8 Registrar (7)
- 9 Stratum (5)
- 10 Acts (5)
- 11 Wearisome (7)
- 13 Portent (4)
- 15 Prevailing system (6)
- 17 Menial (6)
- 20 Old Persian capital (4)
- 22 Opposed to (7)
- 24 Drive (5)
- 26 Country (5)
- 27 Sweet (7)
- 28 Czech composer (7)
- 29 Bare (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Renegade (7)
- 2 Bury (5)
- 3 Crossbeam (7)
- 4 Prairie-wolf (8)
- 5 Loitered (5)
- 6 Significant term (7)
- 7 Conditions (5)
- 12 Objects (4)
- 14 Slovenly state (4)
- 16 Spanish noble (7)
- 18 Mexican fast (7)
- 19 Furtive (7)
- 21 Imaginary perfect state (6)
- 22 The Ram (5)
- 23 SAfrican antelope (5)
- 25 Dense (5)

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Applications should be submitted on the appropriate forms, in ten copies, to both:

- Ministry of Science, Research Funds Division, Bldg 3, Hakriya Hamzrahit, POB 18195, Jerusalem 91161
- Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Science and Technology, International Division, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi 110016

The applications must be received in the offices of the above mentioned Ministries, no later than July 24, 1997.

For information on general and financial matters

Mrs. Pnina Tel-Dan, Section Head, Division for International Scientific Relations  
 Tel. 02-5825221/2, Fax. 02-5825275, E-mail: pnina@most.gov.il

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**HIGH TECH**

*in brief*

BY JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

**Apple plans Mac for Israeli market**

Apple Computers, together with its Israeli representative Yeda, is planning a special configuration of the Macintosh computer for the Israeli market. Details are not available on the name of the package to be offered, but the company said it is being test-marketed and operated in several places in Israel. Apple is scheduled to announce the product launch in September. According to assessments, the Israeli market for Apple products totals \$20 million annually, or 5% of the local computer market.

**Israel-Singapore R&D fund okays two projects**

The Israel-Singapore research and development fund has announced the approval of two joint venture projects. Israel's Scitex Corporation and Singapore's Transtech Electronics will receive funding to jointly develop components for printers and fax machines, and Elishim Ltd. of Israel and Tech ISS of Singapore will join forces to develop security products for the Internet. The \$6 million fund will award a total of \$1.5m. for the projects. These are the first projects to receive the fund's support.

**Israeli exhibitors to attend Paris air show**

More than 20 Israeli companies active in the defense and related high-tech fields will participate in the Paris air show in June. The companies, including Rada, Rafael, Elbit, El-Op and Israel Industries, will join the exhibition as part of the Israel Export Institute pavilion. Over 1,700 participants from 50 countries will be represented at the exhibition, which is considered the most prestigious in the world.

**Jerusalem Global deal opens access to Taiwan**

Jerusalem Global Ltd. has announced the signing of a strategic cooperation agreement with the China Development Corporation of Taiwan. The affiliation will allow Jerusalem Global to provide clients with access to markets and capital resources in Taiwan, the company said. CDC, a leading investment bank in Taiwan, has relationships with technology companies such as Acer, Mitac Computers, Sanyang Industry and UMI.

**Madge Networks releases new modules**

Madge Networks has announced the release of specialized modules for its local area network switching hub, a device used to monitor traffic within a computer network. The company said the new modules effectively double the speed of the LANswitch hub to 2.56 Gigabits per second (Gbps), making the LANswitch Plus hub their fastest multi-layer switch. Since new applications are constantly being added to computer systems, faster, more efficient technologies are needed.

**RADGuard releases new data security system**

RADGuard has announced the release of a new inter-networking data security system, the NetCryptor. This encryption device is designed to provide a secured multi-site virtual private network (VPN) environment. An organization can use the system to build its own VPN, using any communication media, and have all its sites communicating in a secure fashion. Each site needs only a single NetCryptor device to be able to connect securely with all other sites.

**Shamir takes post as president of VCOC**

Yair Shamir, son of Yitzhak Shamir and former head of Scitex and Elite, has taken the post as president of VCOC, a start-up that develops products used in videoconferencing. VCOC was established in 1992 as a subsidiary of Optibase, a company specializing in video signal compression.

**US puzzled by gov't inaction in Tower-El Al fray**

By HANI SHAPIRO

US Embassy officials yesterday appeared puzzled over what they insinuated was Transport Ministry procrastination in the face of a threat which could result in the loss of El Al routes to two US cities as early as this weekend. The US government has said it will take action due to a dispute whether Tower Air, an American company, should be allowed to fly to Israel via Athens.

The US Department of Transport warning, that it could stop El Al service to San Francisco and Dallas-Fort Worth, followed a Civil Aviation Authority decision to defer until October the Tower flights via Athens on the grounds that the request had been submitted late. The American warning gave the Israeli side a week to reply.

According to US Commercial Counselor Tain Tompkins, that week ended yesterday, when El Al and its US subsidiary North American Airlines submitted letters stating their case.

Tower has three days in which to formulate and submit a rebuttal, he said. "The deadline is this weekend," Tompkins said.

Meanwhile, when the issue came to the fore, US Ambassador Martin Indyk requested a meeting with Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, in an effort to resolve the matter. Yesterday Levy scheduled the meeting for June 12, over a week after the deadline.

When asked why Levy appeared to be procrastinating, Transport Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadya said yesterday that Levy is hoping the issues will be worked out by US Embassy and ministry officials who are due to meet on Wednesday, thus making it unnecessary for the minister and the ambassador to deal with the technical matters.

The letters from El Al and North American Airlines cited an earlier case in which El Al had to wait eight months to fly to San Francisco because the US Department of Transport said

that the application to do so was submitted late. However, Tompkins said that the two cases were not parallel.

Tompkins said that the right of an American airline to fly to Tel Aviv via Athens is enshrined in the aviation agreement between the two countries. No US airline has done so since TWA stopped that route in the mid-1980s.

However, he said, El Al has rights to fly to five American cities: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and Boston. The agreement does not give it the right to fly to San Francisco, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Orlando or Washington-Baltimore. These flights are carried out by its American subsidiary, North American Airlines, a situation which Tompkins described as perfectly legal, but not part of the agreement.

Menachem Sharon, head of the Civil Aviation Administration, said that not only are the two cases similar, the US Department of Transport has acted similarly to the CAA in other cases, dealing with other countries.

**Meridor forecast '97 inflation to total 10%**

By DAVID HARRIS and news agencies

Inflation will total some 10 percent this year, Finance Minister Dan Meridor said yesterday.

Speaking at a conference in Tel Aviv, Meridor also spoke of substantially reduced budget and balance of payments deficits, a retention of Israel's current credit rating and a firm stand against public sector demands for wage increases.

The government target for 1997 inflation is between 7% and 10%, and is currently heading for somewhere near the upper end of that bracket. Several respected economists have been predicting end-of-year inflation of 9%. Meridor's conservative prediction could well be a reaction to the Treasury's over-optimistic fiscal and monetary forecasts made this time last year.

The Consumer Price Index rose a lower-than-expected 0.7% last month, but there are already warnings from economists that the next figures, to be published on June 15, will show a considerable rise in prices during May.

While not specifying the extent of this year's budget deficit, Meridor predicted the current-account deficit will shrink to somewhere between \$2 billion and \$3b., compared to the more than \$4b. registered in 1996.

Israel's credit rating should remain at its A level, according to Meridor. The credit ratings were reappraised in September last year in the international markets A and A3 by credit rating companies Moody's Investors Service and Standard and Poors.

Meridor also laid out in brief his policy towards pay and budgetary demands in the public sector. He said public sector wage demands will be treated without an element of compromise.

In addition, he accused the current health insurance law arrangements of being responsible for much of the current budgetary deficits in health-care.

**Hanwha here next week**

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

A delegation including 20 senior managers and board members of Hanwha Ltd., Korea's ninth largest industrial concern, will arrive tomorrow night for a two-week tour of local companies, Shabar Meidan, a foreign investment specialist in the Center for Business Promotion, said yesterday.

Hanwha chairman Seung Yun Kim will join the group for the second half of the visit. Meidan said the group's arrival is especially noteworthy because this will be the longest visit by a Korean company, and it is also the first time a chairman of a leading Korean corporation is participating in such a tour.

"This is really amazing and we expect something dramatic to come of it," said Meidan, noting that while political tensions have hampered relations with the Japanese, the Koreans are more enthusiastic than ever.

"The Koreans were late to discover Israel, but now, when everyone's afraid, the Koreans are still coming," he said.



**Off to a fast start**  
Beijing Enterprises chairman Hu Zhao Guang (center) and vice chairman Guo Ying Ming (left) drink champagne as they watch a monitor at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange yesterday with exchange chairman Edgar Cheng. Beijing Enterprises, China's latest red chip stock, burst into action more than tripling in price at the opening bell. (Reuters)

**COMPANY RESULTS**

**Hapoalim 1st-quarter net up 46%**  
Bezeq profits down 9%, Electric Corporation down 29%

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN and JUDY SEGEL

Bank Hapoalim's first-quarter net income jumped 46.1 percent to NIS 316 million, compared to NIS 216m. last year.

Return on equity for the quarter was 16.6%, compared to 11.9% in the first quarter last year and 11% for all of 1996.

Hapoalim's profit from financing activities before provision for doubtful debts went up 9.9%, compared to NIS 913m. in the first quarter of 1996.

Operating and other income was up to NIS 587m., compared to NIS 585m. in the first quarter of last year.

The government is planning to sell a stake in Bank Hapoalim, the country's largest bank, to a group of investors later this year.

Bezeq's net income for the first quarter of this year was NIS 141.1m., 9.3% below that of the same period last year, the company announced yesterday.

However, the first-quarter income in 1996 had been boosted by a one-time NIS 32.6m. compensatory payment from an insurance company for a fire at the Pctah Tikva telephonic exchange.

According to the company's financial statements, approved by Bezeq's board of directors after they were presented by outgoing chairman Gurio Meltzer and director-general Ami Erel, consolidated revenues from telecommunications services in the first quarter were NIS 2.16 billion, compared to NIS 2.02b. for the same quarter last year.

The company intends to reduce the scope of its investments in infrastructure, Erel said.

The Israel Electric Corporation's first-quarter net income fell 29% to NIS 175m., compared to NIS 247m. in the same period one year ago.

Revenues for the first quarter totaled NIS 7.6b. up 7.7% from the same period last year. Earning from the sale of electricity amounted to NIS 1.9b. up 4.6% from the same period last year.

Rafi Peled, IEC's CEO, attributed the drop in profitability to an increase in expenditures caused by a depreciation of the shekel and to a decrease in the real value of the money raised through tariffs.

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German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-	
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Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (29.5.97)				
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	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
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German mark	3.3958	3.4189	3.30	3.47
French franc	1.9719	2.0038	1.93	2.04
Japanese yen (100)	5.5353	5.5921	5.40	5.87
Dutch florin	0.6837	0.6932	0.57	0.599
Swiss franc	2.8884	2.9320	2.83	2.918
S. African rand	1.7323	1.7806	1.72	1.81
Belgian franc (10)	2.3696	2.4048	2.32	2.396
Australian dollar	0.4365	0.4488	0.42	0.45
Israeli shekel (100)	0.4748	0.4825	0.48	0.478
Canadian dollar	0.5178	0.5282	0.50	0.5233
New Zealand dollar	0.6577	0.6843	0.64	0.668
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4374	2.4768	2.36	2.4815
Italian lira (1,000)	2.5789	2.6218	2.52	2.607
Australian dollar	0.7531	0.7683	0.68	0.77
Belgian franc (10)	0.9528	0.9708	0.93	0.99
Swiss franc (10)	2.6014	2.6486	2.57	2.6329
French franc (100)	1.8910	2.0282	1.85	2.0127
Japanese yen (1,000)	4.7489	4.8236	4.58	5.01
Spanish peseta (100)	0.9800	1.0400	0.96	1.0600
Ecu	3.6392	3.6912	3.58	3.8824
Irish punt	1.5288	1.5486	1.50	1.5163
Portuguese escudo (100)	2.3282	2.3688	2.28	2.3548

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Table with columns: AMEX, LAST CHANGE, and stock names like Am Israel Paper Mills, Anep American Israel, etc.

Table with columns: NASDAQ, LAST CHANGE, and stock names like Account Software, A.G. Associates, etc.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE and stock names like Am Paper Mills, Adcochem, etc.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES NEW YORK

Large table listing international stocks with columns: LAST CHANGE and stock names like Amgen, Amgen, etc.

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE and stock names like Bio Technology General, B.V.R. Technology, etc.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Stocks follow company earnings down

Mishtanim 274.39 -0.09%

Maof 282.78 -0.15%

By FELICE MARANZ

Stock indexes retreated from their all-time highs amid mixed company earnings reports.

expectations, while Bezeq Ltd. and Blue Square reported lower-than-expected earnings.

Key Representative Rates

Table with columns: US Dollar, Starting, Mark and interest rates.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - The FTSE 100 ended with modest losses, as concerns about the fate of EMU in the wake of the Bundesbank row...

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Last, Change and index names like DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, etc.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Last, Change and index names like FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with columns: Last, Change and currency pairs like Pound/spot, etc.

US COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Last, Change and commodity names like Cocoa, Sugar, etc.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Last, Change and commodity names like Cocoa, Sugar, etc.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns: Last, Change and metal names like Gold, Silver, etc.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Last, Change and metal names like Gold, Silver, etc.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table with columns: Last, Change and metal names like Gold, Silver, etc.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA

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Tel Aviv shares data

Table listing Tel Aviv shares with columns: Name, Last, Change.

PARIS

Table listing Paris shares with columns: Name, Last, Change.

FRANKFURT

Table listing Frankfurt shares with columns: Name, Last, Change.

London down due to concerns over EMU

LONDON (Reuters) - The FTSE 100 ended with modest losses, as concerns about the fate of EMU in the wake of the Bundesbank row...

Stocks end mixed; Dow industrials slip

NEW YORK (AP) - Smaller-company shares set a new high for the fifth straight session, but blue-chip shares fell modestly yesterday...

WALL STREET REPORT

Stocks end mixed; Dow industrials slip. Broader indicators were mixed. The technology-heavy Nasdaq market succumbed to some profit-taking...

Romania begins to return Jewish assets

By DAVID HARRIS. The Romanian government has handed over six properties that belonged to the Jewish community before World War II to a Jewish foundation...

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**SETTLERS**  
Continued from Page 9

According to Ginsburg, long-term plans call for 5,000 housing units for the three communities, whose judicial borders spread over 5,600 dunams. Almost a third of that land, is built on today, says Ginsburg, including public buildings and green areas. The communities, says council secretary Haya Schochener, are closely knit. Karnei Shomron is an entirely religious community and Ginoi Shomron contains both secular and religious Jews. But Neveh Menahem, she said, has many problems. According to Schochener, 20 of the original 120 homes were purchased by residents before the freeze. The remaining 100 have been occupied by squatters, and the



Elkana Mayor Nissan Slomiansky (Sarit Uziely)

government has done nothing to get them out. "But the Housing Ministry has

decided to sell the houses, and is offering the squatters a chance to buy their own. We hope that those who don't buy will be ousted." (See story, page 20.) According to Yesha Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar, 95% of the construction consists of structures built in the time of the former government that were frozen. "With the former government, we needed to obtain building permits from five separate committees. "Now we still have five committees, but each stage has to be approved personally by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai," she says, adding that this is often the reason for long delays. Settlers are frustrated. The government promised to strengthen communities in Judea and Samaria and allow construction in Jewish Hebron, says Tayar, but nothing has happened.



Merav Halawi and Nurit Dadon: 'People will refuse to leave.' (Sarit Uziely)

**How much does a home in a settlement cost?**

Peace Now has published a survey detailing the number of housing units currently for sale in settlements, and their costs. The following are the majority of settlements mentioned.

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**Squatting in Neveh Menahem**

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hot winds blow dust into the almost deserted streets, tossing litter into the air and whistling through the weeds growing around two-story concrete block buildings, left deserted and unfinished. Two young women, one pushing a stroller, talk to each other, smoking as they walk. Eighteen months ago, Merav Halawi, 22, moved with her husband and two young children from Kfar Saba to Neveh Menahem. "Yes we are squatters, we heard about this place from friends," she says.

Halawi says there were no doors, toilets, windows or electricity when they moved in, and adds that they fixed everything themselves. "In winter the house leaks and the children are constantly ill." According to Halawi there are 100 squatters in Neveh Menahem, mainly young married couples with small children; the husbands usually work in Kfar Saba. Some have been there for as long as four years. Just recently, says Halawi, the Housing Ministry sent letters offering the squatters the opportunity to buy their houses for \$70,000. "My husband earns NIS 3,000 a month. How can we afford a mortgage with two small children," she asks,

adding: "People will commit suicide; they won't be able to pay and will refuse to leave." Nurit Dadon, 20, originally from Haifa, married and lived with her in-laws in Kfar Saba until she and her husband were thrown out of the house. "I was pregnant at the time, and I lived with my husband in the car for several months until someone told us about this place." In Neveh Menahem, say Dadon and Halawi, there is a school and day care center, but nothing else. "We pay the municipality, but for what?" asks Dadon. Pointing at the barren streets, Halawi says the community has become a haven for

alcoholics and drug addicts. Samaria police commander Amikam Harpaz admits that some of those living in Neveh Menahem have a criminal past. "In the past, we have received requests from officials of Karnei Shomron and the Housing Ministry (to evict) squatters there," he says. However, Harpaz adds, when police attempted to intervene, the Housing Ministry retracted its request. "Everyone here is afraid to speak up," she says, adding that homes are broken in to every day. "Who wants to raise kids in a place like this?" she adds, as the two young women, still smoking, walk away.

**Wiesenthal Center's plan for new museum met with skepticism**

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES - The Simon Wiesenthal Center is fully committed to building a \$50 million museum in Jerusalem, despite skepticism expressed by some Holocaust scholars. "We are close to acquiring a property and are putting together an advisory board in Israel, whose members will range from the far Left to fervently Orthodox haredim," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the center's associate dean. The new project will draw on the practical experience derived from running the center's popular Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, which deals with the Holocaust and other outgrowths of racism and ethnic hatred. However, the Jerusalem museum will not duplicate these themes, Cooper said. "It would be ludicrous to try and build a second Yad Vashem in Jerusalem," said Cooper. No permanent name has been selected for the museum, but Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder of the

Wiesenthal Center, used the Talmudic phrase *kavod habriot*, or Respect for Mankind, to indicate the thrust of its mission. The museum will address two main themes. One will deal with the last 100 years of Jewish history in Israel and the Diaspora, expressed mainly through the encapsulated experiences of Jews in different times and places. The second, and more controversial, part of the project will focus on contemporary issues that represent "flash points" of tension and strife among different segments of the Jewish world. Likely examples are confrontations between haredim and secular Israelis, or between American Jewry and Israeli lawmakers on the legitimacy of non-Orthodox conversions. The museum project has been met with skepticism, and even derision, by two Israelis quoted in the weekly *Forward*. Holocaust historian Raul Hilberg suggested that the new museum might copy the interactive, high-tech techniques of the Museum of Tolerance.

"It will probably be a little bit of Disneyland with voices and disappearing bodies," Hilberg said. "This is not my cup of tea." Avner Shalev, chairman of the Yad Vashem directorate, also had reservations. "I knew they had some kinds of confused ideas in the past, but we have the feeling that we don't need [the proposed museum]," he said. Qualified support came from Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "I think it's important to help Israel deal with its intolerance problem. I'm not sure a museum is a way to do it," Foxman told the *Forward*. Cooper declined to respond to Hilberg, but he expressed surprise at Shalev's comments. "We have had two long meetings with Mr. Shalev, at which we explained our plans in detail," said Cooper. After the site for the Jerusalem museum in purchased, it will take about five years until the opening day, Cooper estimated.



By BEVERLEE BLACK

Thanks to local music lovers, our Funds are NIS 8,000 richer. How come? For the past year, the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem has been running intimate Saturday night wine-and-cheese concerts in its lovely hall. Now, as part of the proceeds, they've sent me a check to dispense good deeds to those in need. Of course, these days, NIS 8,000 doesn't go very far. That's why I'm appealing to individuals and organizers of similar activities to take up the Bible Lands' idea and while you're having an enjoyable time, to think that maybe you or your organization could send a donation to our Funds. It seems that every social worker and anyone else working with the needy in Israel has heard about the Funds. Unfortunately, the requests for help far exceed

**Wine, cheese and charity**

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\$14 For the victims of terrorism - Gary Higley, Grand Junction, CO.

\$1.75 Anon., Harrisburg, PA.

Au.Sch. 3881.50 Gunter and Gertraude Pogats, Eisenstadt, Austria.

New Donations	Progress Totals	NIS
NIS 5,125		
81,495		
5623.75	\$23,593.75	
(other currencies converted into shekels)		

**TOY FUND**

NIS 3,000 Proceeds from Saturday night concerts held at The Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem.

NIS 2,000 H. Simon, Herzliya Pituah.

NIS 1,000 Sofia and Yaacov Leon, I'm.

Donations	Progress Totals	NIS
NIS 6,850		
47,402		
\$315	\$13,939.40	

**WELCOME HOME FUND**

NIS 2,500 Proceeds from Saturday night concerts held at The Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem.

NIS 300 Ellen and Helmut Sport, Schwelm, Germany.

NIS 200 In memory of Alisa Langbaum - Margalit Cantan, Neot Mordechai.

\$100 Anon., Buenos Aires.

\$50 to help olim from Russia and other countries - The Wagners, Pikeston, OH.

\$10 Edward Hyder, Columbia, SC.

New Donations	Progress Totals	NIS
NIS 3,000		
\$160	NIS 25,546	
	\$6,509	

**Buy BLUE AND WHITE AND KEEP ISRAEL IN THE PINK**

הכלה מן האוכל



